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Status of Quest for U.S. MIA's Updated

MK2202123092 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Feb 92 p 4

[Vladimir Abarinov article: "Investigation: Prisoners of War Have Own Archipelago. U.S. Prisoners in Former USSR Still Not Martyrology"]

[Text] The search for U.S. servicemen who disappeared on USSR territory in various circumstances has been stepped recently. We would remind you that NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA first addressed this problem last August. Since then there has been virtually no progress. However, available information and experience of similar searches gives us every reason to expect success.

For starters I must repeat some figures, since those doing the rounds in our press are imprecise and do not differentiate between prisoners of war [POW's] and those missing in action [MIA's] and are often rounded up—presumably, for the writer's convenience.

During the Korean war the United States lost 8,177 MIA's and 954 people who it is known for certain were captured and did not return home alive or dead. After the war in Indochina the Americans were missing 2,273 men, of whom 1,678 disappeared in Vietnam, while none of the 500 or more airmen brought down over Laos were repatriated.

Air crews downed near the Soviet borders—there were 86 of them in the fifties and sixties—form a separate category of MIA's. Moreover, in most cases the entire crew disappeared.

A considerable proportion of the prisoners dating back to the Korean and Vietnam wars were evidently never held on USSR territory—the exception being people of some operational interest. Americans "liberated" by the Red Army from Nazi jails in the Balkans, in Poland, and East Germany (and incidentally from Japanese jails in Manchuria) are another matter. Some 20,000 of them failed to return home.

Last, officers abducted by the Soviet special services in Berlin, Vienna, and certain other points in the Soviet occupied zone during the early postwar years form a special group of MIA's. There are 18 such people in my file.

So, where should we look for them?

The countless references to the Gulag are totally incorrect: This is quite a justifiable euphemism for U.S. journalists, but for national journalists it is a true indication of incompetence. There were never any POW's in the Gulag—they were dealt with by another main commissariat of the NKVD-MGB [People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs-Ministry of State Security], namely the Main Directorate for POW and Internee Affairs, which had its own camps. People convicted of espionage and other real or imaginary crimes are another matter. They not only could have but should have ended up in the Gulag (which was until recently called the GUITU, now the GUID [expansions unknown]).

They dealt in the same way with people who did not agree to be recruited or to cooperate in other ways and also with those whose services were no longer needed. The story of Stanislaw Swianewicz is typical; he escaped execution in the Katyn forest in 1940 at the last moment owing to a request from the USSR NKVD Main Directorate for State Security. Sitting in the inner Lubyanka jail, he wrote a treatise on the economy of the Third Reich (Professor Swianewicz was an unsurpassed specialist in this field), after which he was convicted and sent to a camp. These people were often kept in special jails as a "special contingent"—for example, before being exchanged for Rulof Abel, Francis Gary Powers served time in Vladimir jail. What is more, a foreigner could be under investigation for as long as they liked. Prominent Wehrmacht and SS officers captured at the end of the war were only sentenced in 1951-1952. Throughout these six or seven years they were kept in the Lubyanka jail, often in solitary confinement, both before and after sentencing. The same thing happened if there were any special circumstances: That happened, for instance, to Raoul Wallenberg's cellmates and fellow defendants.

There are known cases of prisoners (under investigation) being summoned from their cell "with their things" and disappearing without trace. That was the fate that befell Brigade General Leopold Okulice, commander of the Krajowa Army, who was sentenced to 10 years in the camps in June 1945 by the military collegium of the Supreme Court. Okulice's personal prison file was declassified recently, revealing that he died as a result of a failed surgical operation.

There were cases of a prisoner liable to repatriation not returning home either. That was the fate of Lieutenant General Reiner Stagel, one of the butchers during the Warsaw uprising. Sentenced to 25 years in jail and then amnestied, he did not reach the fatherland: The last document in his file is a burial certificate from one of the transit camps. You only have to destroy this last document, and the disappearance of the repatriant would be shrouded in mystery forever.

Quite often on his release a prisoner would remain under open surveillance, have his movements restricted, and be given a Russian name. The example of the former Greek Communist Party General Secretary Nikos Zakhariadis, who lived in Surgut under the name Nikolay Nikolayevich Nikolayev and committed suicide in 1979, is not entirely typical: His party colleagues knew of his situation. More often a prisoner did not have an opportunity to make himself known and, when the opportunity did arise, he was already as a rule totally assimilated, had a family, and could not even imagine returning. The author knows of several people like that, including people who are currently prospering—admittedly not Americans.

Last, a prisoner might have been executed under Article 58 of the RSFSR Criminal Code (usually charged with espionage or terrorism) or under the decree of 19 April 1943 if the accused were Wehrmacht servicemen or an "accomplice" of the occupiers. I have already written about this hitherto secret act, which has presumably lost its legal validity, that made provision for death by hanging. As far as I am aware, the Belgian national Yermak Lukyanov [name as transliterated] was executed under the draconian decree in May 1984.

The idea that U.S. pilots could have fought in Korea and Vietnam under assumed names, as was the practice in our country, must be considered groundless. U.S. Army Field Regulation FM 21-76 ("Survival, Avoidance of Capture, and Escape from Jail") in the chapter "Conduct Under Interrogation" recommends that a prisoner give his true name, rank, number, and date of birth. That was how the surviving crew members from the RB-47 aircraft downed over the Barents Sea 1 July 1960 behaved. Their story could serve as a model of what did happen or might have happened to U.S. pilots brought down near Soviet borders.

Second pilot Bruce Olsted and navigator John Makkoun [surnames as transliterated] spent almost seven months in Lubyanka. The interrogation indicates that investigator Colonel Pankratov prepared the trial on the basis of the Powers trial. The pilots were freed right after John Kennedy's inauguration as a "goodwill gesture" but only because no confessions were extracted from them. So Americans most likely gave their real names, although prisoners were nearly always given different names in jails and camps.

There is another specific difficulty. People of German, Japanese, and Italian descent served in the U.S. Army. It is quite possible that these people could have gone to a camp on the basis of "national allegiance," especially since the Soviet Union never committed itself to complying with the Hague and Geneva conventions whereby military uniform is the crucial indication of citizenship.

In short, the practice of Soviet punitive organs illustrates that anything could have happened to prisoners. Yet there is nothing fantastic about the hope of finding Americans alive or at least traces of them.

The reports of Americans in Soviet camps and jails are specific enough to be able to start checking them out. There was a camp somewhere in Belarus in 1945 for black soldiers—nearby inhabitants would hardly have forgotten such an exotic detail. Colonel Gordon, arrested in Vienna in 1949, was seen in Lvov transit jail in 1953. An unnamed lieutenant and NCO [noncommissioned officer], participants in the Korean war, were seen at a phosphorus mine near Yakutsk (Camp No. 307) in 1960. Lieutenant Warren Sanderson was seen at Inte, and Pilot Joe Miller was seen at Karabas in March 1947—he had been brought down over Berlin in 1945. Colonel Jackson, arrested in Berlin, was seen in Dubrovlag (the report is dated mid-1953). The crew of a B-29 brought down over the Sea of Japan 13 July 1952 (13 men) were kept in Khabarovsk POW Camp No. 21 (October 1951), while one of the members of a crew brought down there 6 November 1951 was seen in a military hospital north of Magadan (1954). This pilot served 25 years for espionage. In both cases the reports have come from repatriated Japanese.

Dzhezkazgan, Magnitogorsk, Perm, Norilsk, Novosibirsk, Omsk, Pechora, Potma, Tayshet, Verkhneuralsk, Vladivostok, Vologda, Vrangel Island, Yavas, the renowned Vladimir Jail OD-1/st-2 [expansion unknown]—familiar names. Sometimes an American is cited by name, often not, but in these cases minimal additional information is given, for instance: date and place of capture, rank, category of troops. The most detailed information concerns the Vorkuta camps: Mine No. 40—William Bizet [surname as transliterated] from Korea, a lieutenant or NCO convicted under Article 58; Camp No. 6—Major Robert Shvarts [surname as transliterated], abducted in Kassel in 1949; Convalescent Camp—crew of a U.S. Navy Privateer aircraft brought down over the Baltic 8 April 1950 (10 men); Colonel Davison, abducted in Vienna in 1946, is also there.

Dmitriy Volkogonov has recently provided documentary confirmation once again that U.S. World War II prisoners were kept in Tambov's "Rada" (No. 188) POW camp. The colonel general was clearly hasty in declaring his discovery a sensation: In this case it is a question of Americans who served in the German Army (there were at least 108 such people in the Tambov camp, according to "special" archive figures).

I must particularly point out that documents concerning POW's and MIA's are still secret in the United States or have been only partially declassified. That is why in a number of cases we do not know the names of the Americans concerned or the source of the information—this information is carefully obliterated when the documents are declassified.

There is a great deal of shady business regarding the problem of POW's and MIA's. At one time NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA reported on a photograph that had caused a sensation in the West. It showed three U.S. pilots brought down over North Vietnam and Laos in 1966, 1969, and 1970. The photograph was dated May 1990. I remember a Pentagon spokesman saying that the photograph was a montage. The journal from which the falsifiers ("Cambodian opportunists") cut the pictures—SOVETSKIY SOYUZ No. 1, 1990—was even named, and it was indicated that it had even been taken out of the Soviet Embassy library in Phnom Penh. It is hard to believe that the mother and the wives of the MIA's did not recognize their close relatives, but that is not the point: This journal is lying in front of me and there is nothing resembling the Cambodian photograph in it.

Late last year a KOMMERSANT report that one of the pilots brought down over Vietnam was still living in Kazakhstan caused a great deal of ballyhoo. The reporter

for some reason decided not to disclose the pilot's name, however he gave the date that he was captured, from which it is easy to elucidate that he is Navy Lt. James Kelly Patterson, born 14 July 1940, who lived in Long Beach, California, before the war. I have something to say about Patterson. Patterson was a navigator in the crew under the command of Captain Eugene MacDaniel, now the prosperous founder and president of the U.S. Rehabilitation Institute, who spent six years in a Vietnamese jail. He said in an interview last year that he had once received a telephone call from the National Security Council asking him to stop making public statements about MIA's.

It is no wonder that the search has as yet had insignificant results.

Shaposhnikov Meets With U.S. Defense Delegation

LD2102175892 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1540 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Moscow, 21 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—The problems connected with the development and deepening of contacts between the Armed Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS] and the United States were discussed today at a meeting of the Air Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the united CIS Armed Forces and a visiting group of experts of the U.S. Armed Forces, headed by Paul Wolfowitz, U.S. under secretary for defense. Other topical issues of mutual interst also were examined during the talks, which were held in a spirit of frankness, trust, and mutual understanding.

Vice President Quayle's Baltic Visit Viewed

PM1402085592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Feb 92 Morning Edition p 4

[Pavel Golub report: "In the Baltic Dan Quayle Does Not Forget Russia"]

[Text] U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle is on a week-long tour of Europe, during which it is envisaged that he will meet with the leaders of France, Germany, and Great Britain. In addition to this, two days of Quayle's trip around the Old World were devoted to visiting the Baltic republics, which were formerly part of the Soviet Union.

The main purpose of these visits, it seems, was primarily to achieve a domestic policy impact in the United States rather than any far-reaching foreign policy or military-strategic aims.

The election for the head of the administration is coming up in the United States this fall. It is unlikely that the current vice president has rejected the idea of getting reelected to the White House with G. Bush. So the support of the Baltic colony in America counts for quite a lot. What counts even more are the votes of the many electors who over the last few decades regarded support for the Baltic states' desire for independence from the USSR as a matter of principle and refused to recognize their annexation to the Union.

The results of Quayle's Baltic trip are unknown. He brought aid—food, medicine, and money—to the former Soviet republics. In Tallinn and Riga, he attended the opening ceremonies of the U.S. Embassies.

As a result, the Baltics have received concrete material benefits (15 tonnes of medicines, $18 million in the form of subsidies, etc.). Dan Quayle has garnered the votes of much of the "Baltic" lobby in the United States. All parties strengthened the direct bilateral political threads that make up the net of peaceful international cooperation.

I would like to draw attention to the irreproachable propriety shown by the U.S. vice president during the talks on the tough topic of the Soviet military presence in the Baltic. As an AP correspondent reports, responding to persistent statements by the Baltic leaders about the need to speed up the withdrawal of Soviet troops from the territories of the now sovereign states, Quayle said that "Russia is aware of the fact that the United States supports the idea of a complete troop withdrawal, but a solution to this problem should be found during talks between Russia and the Baltic states."

Even David Beckwith, the vice president's press attache, stressed in official comments that the intention of the visit was "to demonstrate our commitment to the political and economic development of the Baltic states during the difficult period of transition to independence."

At a time when our confrontational attitude to the United States is giving way to nascent partnership, Washington's "targeting" of the Baltic demonstrated by Dan Quayle over the last few days does not threaten Russian national interests. Moreover, if our Baltic neighbors manage to overcome their present difficulties without excessive expenditure using material, technical, and financial aid from the United States, this will suit our strategic interests. However, if anyone has any doubts about this, they would do well to make inquiries of other states bordering on the Commonwealth of Independent States: What sort of neighbor would they prefer to see next door—one that is hungry and feels slighted by everyone or one that is prospering and confident of its future.

Commentary on Reasons for Baker's Recent Visit

LD2202234592 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1630 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Commentary by international observer Andrey Ptashnikov; introducted by commentator Aleksandr Zhetvin]

[Text] The affairs in each CIS state worry not only our Commonwealth and us, inhabitants of the former USSR, but our problems and ways of resolving them are by no means a matter of indifference to the world community.

I now give the floor to my colleague, international observer Andrey Ptashnikov.

[Ptashnikov] You are absolutely correct. The world community is worried, and how! I think the main aim of the visit to Moscow and to the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] in general by U.S. Secretary of State Baker was precisely to assure himself of what is happening in the Commonwealth and to what extent it is stable and lasting. This probably explains both the unprecedented length of the tour and its itinerary. It included Kishinev, Yerevan, Baku, Dushanbe, Ashkhabad, Chelyabinsk, Yekaterinburg, Tashkent, and finally Moscow.

I do not know whether is was planned beforehand or if it just turned out that Baker was in the CIS on 14 February when the leaders of the countries making up the Commonwealth were conferring in Minsk, so that he was able, so to speak, to form an opinion about the processes which are taking place in our country on the spot. I find it difficult to say what kind of an impression this is. At any rate Baker has not made any announcements about this for all to hear. During meetings with journalists he evaded giving a direct answer to this question, but then Baker is a first class diplomat.

However, one cannot doubt that upon his return to Washington, he will brief the U.S. President with regard to what he heard and saw in the CIS. The attitude toward us on the part of the United States, the only superpower remaining on the planet, will to a great extent depend on this. I am convinced that America does not want the CIS to disintegrate. The breakup of the Soviet Union is enough. It is clearly easier for America, and not only for that reason, to conduct business with us as a more or less single entity. But it is also no secret that the United States is now acting from the position of strength, and we, unfortunately, are operating from the position of the weak. On the whole, we ask and propose. The United States helps and examines our proposals, even though we must admit that the United States does not refuse us aid.

So during Baker's stay in Moscow, additional credits for purchases of U.S. grain in the second quarter of the current year were discussed. The United States agreed to set up on Russian territory, jointly with Germany and Russia, an international scientific-technical center of support for our nuclear scientists. America is prepared to allocate $25 million for these purposes. In the West they are very much afraid that these scientists, left without a job in our country, will use their knowledge and experience in other—to put it mildly—unreliable countries. One can understand the West here. Moreover, it does not want our Central Asian states to fall under the influence of Iranian Islamic fundamentalism. This is exactly what was discussed during the stay of James Baker in these former Soviet republics.

Well, if one speaks of Moscow and of the meetings with President Yeltsin and Foreign Minister Kozyrev, questions of disarmament and implementing those programs for reducing their nuclear arsenals, which Yeltsin and U.S. President Bush put forward recently, were discussed. Has Baker's visit yielded special improvements in this sphere? If one takes one's bearings from the statements made by Baker himself, and also by Yeltsin and Kozyrev at the news conference which took place, progress has been achieved and the positions are coming together. In particular, they agreed to work on reducing nuclear armaments without long drawn-out negotations—as was the case before—but through efficient contacts at ministerial level. In this connection Andrey Kozyrev stressed that the remaining problems are not political but purely technical, though fairly complicated, ones. Nevertheless, both he and Baker expressed the hope that by the summer of this year it will be possible to overcome the majority of problems in question so that during the visit to Washington scheduled for July of this year, the presidents of the two countries will be able to reach substantial decisions. May God grant that, as they say, but I, for instance, am not in any doubt that these decisions will be difficult ones.

I will repeat once more what I have already said: The United States senses its strength and wants to remain strong. This is shown by the address two days ago by George Bush in New Hampshire. He stated, I remind you, that the U.S. Armed Forces must be equipped with the very best materiel and must strive for success. To this end the country's strong military potential must be preserved. I can grant that this statement was mainly designed for U.S. voters. After all, the latest pre-election presidential campaign is already in full swing in the United States. By the way, today the first primary elections in the country are taking place in New Hampshire.

Nevertheless, such statements, you must agree, clearly put one on guard. It is true, Baker, in the course of his tour, did not say anything of the kind. However, he confirmed that in the sphere of reducing nuclear armaments there are still complicated technical problems, primarily problems of verification.

This in brief is the result of the negotiations and discussions held by U.S. secretary of state. In conclusion, I will report only that Baker's next meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev is scheduled for March, but the place has not been named. But it is known that the discussion of the entire complex of questions and problems of Russo-American relations will be continued.

Gates Tour Linked to Efforts To Remove Saddam

PM1402114392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Feb 92 Moscow Evening Edition p 6

[Report by Georgiy Stepanov: "Robert Gates in Near East. Cloak of Secrecy Remains Intact"]

[Text] There is still no information from the White House about CIA Director Robert Gates' tour of three Near East countries—Egypt, Israeli, and Saudi Arabia—which began last week.

It remains a secret who precisely Gates has been meeting with and what matters he has discussed. The deliberate secrecy surrounding his mission is causing considerable comment.

Staff at the U.S. Embassy in Cairo also refused to confirm or deny if Gates had met with any of the country's leaders. At the same time, Cairo denied Saturday's report in THE NEW YORK TIMES according to which Egypt, in conjunction with the United States, has for a long time been working on a plan to remove Iraqi President Saddam Husayn from power. "Our country has no involvement at all in what THE NEW YORK TIMES claims," an Egyptian Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Nonetheless, most observers agree that the main purpose of Gates' mission is to consult with his Near East allies on secret operations geared if not to overthrowing Husayn by military means then at least to weakening his regime. This conclusion dovetails nicely with information in the LOS ANGELES TIMES, which, citing unnamed government sources, reported Saturday that the Bush administration had authorized the CIA to carry out such operations. The paper writes that around $30 million has been allocated for the purpose from a special CIA fund. The LOS ANGELES TIMES also noted that in the past few weeks the White House has informed U.S. Congress special committees on intelligence of new measures it plans to take against the current Iraqi leadership. The measures include, in particular, expanding contacts with opposition forces in Iraq.

The UN Security Council's economic sanctions against Iraq, prohibiting Baghdad from selling oil, remain in force. Washington continues to insist on their retention while avoiding talking openly about possible military operations or intelligence actions. The main reason for retaining the embargo is Baghdad's refusal to give international inspectors access to its nuclear facilities.

CIS To Join North Atlantic Cooperation Council

LD2102221492 Moscow TASS in English 2132 GMT 21 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Stepovik]

[Text] Bonn February 22 TASS—The Commonwealth member-states will be admitted to the North Atlantic Cooperation Council on March 10, 1992, at a council meeting at the level of foreign ministers in Brussels, NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner told a news conference on Friday in Hamburg.

After internal political problems have been settled, Georgia may also join the council, if it wishes, the NATO head noted. The expansion of the body will be discussed during the upcoming visit of Woerner to Romania, Ukraine and Russia.

He did not excluded a possibility of East European countries' joining the NATO in future. However, in order to do it, each of the republics should share the interests and values of other NATO member-states, Woerner stressed.

Speaking of the "brain drain" and proliferation of nuclear weapons from the former Soviet republics, Woerner said the creation of a special fund for financial support of scientists will not solve the problem. International inspection mechanisms should be established to intensify control over the non-proliferation of mass destruction weapons.

The NATO secretary-general called on Western private firms and scientific research institutions to establish contacts with similar organizations of the CIS member-states. Western specialists, in his opinion, may participate in the destruction of tactical and part of the strategic nuclear arms located on territory of the former Soviet Union.

Shevardnadze's Opposition Noted

LD2202180692 Moscow TASS in English 1710 GMT 22 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Chistyakov]

[Text] Bonn February 22 TASS—Former Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze has opposed a possible joining of NATO by CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] member states. He said in an interview, broadcast today by Radio Saar and Radio Hesse, that the North Atlantic Alliance, which is an important factor of ensuring stability in Europe, would not be able to acquire a new quality through expanding the number of the states taking part in its activities.

According to Shevardnadze, the main task facing the CIS member states today is to reduce their military potentials. In this connection he believes it is important to ensure reliable control over the nuclear arsenal of the united Armed Forces of the USSR, which ceased to exist. At the same time, Shevardnadze is sure that Ukraine, Russia, Kazakhstan and other republics will sign the treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and on their reduction.

Saudi Arabia Establishes Relations With Republics

LD2302182692 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1200 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Text] Saudi Arabia has established diplomatic relations with Turkmenistan and Tajikistan. Protocols to the effect were signed during a visit to the two republics by Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal al-Sa'ud. In Ashkhabad the Saudi minister handed to President Saparmurad Niyazov a message from King Fahd expressing solidarity with the Turkmen people in this hard period. Saudi Arabia intends to give humanitarian aid to Turkmenistan and cooperate with it in agriculture. During his visit to Dushanbe the Saudi minister said his country was ready to contribute to Tajikistan's revival.

FRG Red Cross on EC's Organization of Aid

PM1902153192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Feb 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Yevgeniy Bovkun report: "Stuttgart Lowers the Barrier"]

[Text] Bonn—Leaders of the German Red Cross believe that humanitarian aid to CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] states carried out by the European Community is badly organized.

Bernt Hausmann, a representative of the German Red Cross, fears that food deliveries by air—and the matter concerns large quantities of products valuing 90 million ECU's [European currency units]—which are not backed up by the creation of structures to guarantee distribution at the local level will not have the desired effect. The Red Cross itself adopts a different approach: It allocates people not just to accompany the consignments but also to monitor the distribution of produce to the needy on site.

Last fall, the Red Cross concluded a treaty with the EEC to deliver 20,000 tonnes of foodstuffs to the borders of the former Soviet Union. Freight should have been conveyed at the expense of those republics for whom the aid was intended. At this point, as IZVESTIYA has already reported, everything ground to a halt. Nobody wanted to pay to transfer the produce or to store it in their depots. Russian administration representatives went to Bonn and Brussels to investigate this problem. As a result, the agreement with the Common Market had to be amended: all transit costs were assumed by European Community countries, and the products were dispatched. In March, the German Red Cross will complete this humanitarian action.

However, this negative experience with conveying the freight and the unstable political situation in CIS countries are a cause of concern for the German Red Cross and other German humanitarian and charitable organizations. For example, the Baden-Wurttemberg Land has decided to suspend aid operations to the Commonwealth of Independent States.

According to Helmut Rieger from the Baden-Wurttemberg Land Mission in Bonn, the city authorities in Yekaterinburg made a timely promise to meet aircraft and to guarantee the distribution of parcels. Tonnes of freight was prepared for dispatch at Stuttgart Airport—and this was in the middle of January—when suddenly the "Yekaterinburg partners" seemed to vanish without trace.

Others turned up in their place, but they behaved a little strangely: They did not resolve to guarantee the receipt and distribution of aid.

European Parliament on Food Aid From CIS

LD2202111392 Moscow TASS in English 1011 GMT 21 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Chistyakov]

[Text] Bonn February 21 TASS—"The European Community nations should henceforth purchase food for humanitarian aid to the population of the former Soviet Union not in the West, but within the Commonwealth States," this unusual idea belongs to Magdelene Hoff, member of the European Parliament from the Social Democratic Party of Germany.

"One tonne of grain in EC countries now costs about 350 German marks, whereas it can be purchased at almost half this price or even much cheaper on the free market in Moscow," says her statement released here. "Many producers, who have lost faith in the devaluated ruble, artificially hold back farm products, but would readily sell them for hard currency. This means that the money allocated by the European Community could buy in Russia and other CIS states 100 percent more grain than in any other country," Hoff stresses. "The implementation of this idea would allow the West to save much of the money now used to pay for transportation," she notes.

Hoff plans to come out with this initiative in the European Parliament. She hopes to get its support.

Sobchak Appeals to EC Countries for Sugar

LD2202225492 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0430 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak has appealed to EC countries for deliveries of sugar by way of humanitarian assistance because the city has not received 40,000 tonnes of promised sugar from Ukraine. On 23 February Sobchak is leaving for Barcelona where there will be talk about deliveries of sugar to St. Petersburg at the end of February.

Congress of Industrialists, Entrepreneurs Formed

LD2402120392 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1530 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] An international congress of industrialists and entrepreneurs was formed in Moscow today. Our correspondent Sergey Amelchenko reports by phone:

[Amelchenko] Representatives of practically all 15 states of the former USSR republics have taken part in this assembly—managers of industrial enterprises, scientists, and entrepreneurs. An agreement to establish an international congress of industrialists and entrepreneurs says that this independent association operates on voluntary basis, with self-governing and openness in strict accordance with national legislations of states and norms of international law.

Arkadiy Volskiy, Chairman of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, has become the Chairman-Coordinator of the union of the international congress. In his speech, Arkadiy Volskiy stressed that the motto of the congress is freedom, creation, pragmatism, and openness. The principles of the congress are an all-embracing the advancement and protection of interests and rights of industrialists and entrepreneurs against monopolism and bureaucracy and creation of effective juridical mechanism for international economic relations. These are very important theses. Unity of actions under full independence is the essence of work of this international congress.

The chairman was supported by all those who spoke at the assembly. They noted that today there is no alternative to cooperation between industrialists and entrepreneurs in the economic space of the former USSR. Nobody will get out of the crisis on his own. The extreme nationalists' illusion that by standing apart it is easier to overcome difficulties turned out to be just an illusion. In real life standing apart leads people to poverty and suffering. Many now independent states have become convinced of this. The congress will have to fight for changing investment and taxation policies which suffocate the economy and struggle for creating normal civilized economic relations inside independent states as well as between them. Today the doors of the congress are open for all states, and Bulgaria, Bohemia, and Hungary have already expressed desire to join the new organization.

The participants in the assembly have signed an agreement and adopted a statement which, in particular, notes that the congress is for mutually beneficial effective use of unique possibilities of the Euro-Asian marketspace while respecting the sovereignty of each of the states and for preventing growing economic crisis.

The second assembly is planned for April in Azerbaijan and after that alphabetically—in Armenia etc. So as you can see, prospects for economic cooperation are encouraging and optimistic.

Military

Shaposhnikov Pronouncements, Interviews Reported

Armed Forces Day Order

LD2102125492 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1112 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Moscow, 21 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—"Strengthening the cohesion of the multinational collectives of troops, the atmosphere of combat comradeship and soldierly friendship, faithfulness to military duty, and respect for the honor and dignity of the defender of the fatherland are important factors today in domestic stability and a pledge that tasks to insure the defense and security of the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS] are carried out successfully," says an order from Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the United Armed Forces, in which he congratulates personnel and veterans on Armed Forces Day. This is marked by the people and troops of the CIS on 23 February.

"Throughout history, the Army and Navy have loyally served and continue to serve the people and the fatherland," the order notes. "New generations of defenders of the fatherland continue to multiply the historic traditions of the Armed Forces. In the difficult conditions of a fundamental transformation of society, profound military reform, and a worsening of social, economic, and interethnic problems those serving in the army and navy retain their endurance and a high degree of organization and cohesion, staunchly rebuff attempts to draw them into political games, and do everything to preserve the fatherland's defense potential and to keep the training and combat readiness of the Armed Forces at the necessary and sufficient level."

On Future of Armed Forces

LD2202165392 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1210 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] On 23 February Russia and some other CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] states mark the Armed Forces Day. At present the Army has many problems due to the creation of independent states on the territory of the former Soviet Union. Here is the commander of the CIS Armed Forces, Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, and this is what he says:

[Begin Shaposhnikov recording in Russian, fading into English translation] Ukraine, Moldova, and Azerbaijan insist on having their own armies while the rest [as heard] eight member states favor the unification of Armed Forces. At every meeting, Marshal Shaposhnikov continues, I spoke out against the creation of the armies in the places where the situation is unstable so that they may not be involved in the conflicts. Yet presidents thought otherwise and the armies are being formed. Ukraine is likely to complete soon creating its Army. At present talks are under way in Moldova and Azerbaijan on the issue. Marshal Shaposhnikov says that all 11 CIS states are in full agreement on the problem of the strategic nuclear Armed Forces. They are under a single control and all the problems related to them are solved jointly and all the previous agreements on their reduction will be observed. These and other issues related to strategic forces are fixed in the special agreement signed at the Minsk meeting on 14 February. Things are more difficult concerning the ratification of the treaty on reducing conventional arms in Europe because the sides are to determine the share to be reduced by each side. These problems may also be solved since all the leaders, including of the Baltic states, favor the full implementation of the agreement. They agreed that the final decision would be worked out by experts from the states concerned and would be submitted for approval at the Kiev summit on 20 March. The commander of the CIS Armed Forces, Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, said that the Council of Defense Ministers, a standing CIS body, would begin its work shortly. The council will deal with the problems of the transitional period in transforming the Soviet Army and Navy into the CIS Armed Forces. The transitional period, Marshal Shaposhnikov believes, will last two or three years. And what then? Some CIS states believe we are so got used to live together, that in future we could possibly have a defensive alliance among states. It could be an alliance like the former Warsaw Treaty or the NATO. [end recording]

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Interview

PM2102221592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Feb 92 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Marshal of Aviation Ye.I. Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given: "Serving the People. Marshal of Aviation Ye.I. Shaposhnikov, Commander in Chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, Replies to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Correspondent's Questions"]

[Text] [KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] Comrade Marshal of Aviation! Tomorrow is Armed Forces Day. This is the first time it has been celebrated under this name. What are the features of this holiday?

[Shaposhnikov] First and foremost, Armed Forces Day is being celebrated at a difficult stage of society's development. As part of society, the Armed Forces are experiencing the same difficulties and overcoming the same contradictions which typify this stage. With the sole difference that disintegration processes are particularly painful for the Army and Navy: After all, it is in these organizations that international ties and the traditions of combat brotherhood and friendship among servicemen—irrespective of their nationality—are probably strongest. And these ties and traditions are based on the firm material foundation of a single military-strategic, defense area which has taken shape over the course of many decades and even centuries.

I hope that the celebration of Armed Forces Day will be not only a continuation of a good tradition but will also serve to strengthen the cohesiveness of our multinational military collectives, combat comradeship, and the friendship among servicemen—who are the sons of all the Commonwealth's peoples. I hope that it will revive the spirit of popular love for the Army and respect for military duty, honor, and the dignity of defenders of the fatherland.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] You mentioned the difficulties the Armed Forces are currently experiencing. What do the main difficulties involve and how are they expressed?

[Shaposhnikov] The protracted economic crisis and the violation and destruction of national economic ties are having a sharply negative affect on the functioning of the mechanism for providing technical, food, and material [veshchevoy] backup for the Armed Forces, and on the fulfillment of the task of ensuring combat and operational training for troops and staffs.

The troop withdrawal from Germany, Poland, Mongolia, and, in the future, from the Baltic states has to an exceptional degree exacerbated the problems of providing facilities for them at their new postings and of providing housing for officers, warrant officers, and their families.

The situation around Nagorno-Karabakh and in Chechnya and Georgia is leaving the troops of the Transcaucasus and North Caucasus Military Districts facing the need to protect military property, arms, and hardware, as well as the honor and dignity of servicemen from criminal incursions.

And, finally, there are definite difficulties involved with the continuing attempts by certain political forces to play the "Army card." They are striving to introduce into the military sphere phenomena—such as nationalism, self-interest, and egoism—that are totally alien to the Army and destructive to its spirit, organization, discipline, and combat readiness.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] It is indeed a difficult situation. But, at any event, the Armed Forces are continuing to do their duty...

[Shaposhnikov] And with dignity. I want to stress that. The Armed Forces are ready and able to provide guaranteed protection for the interests and security of the Commonwealth peoples.

Last year's combat training plans were, in the main, fulfilled by the troops and naval forces. Unfortunately, in a number of cases—owing to the reasons we have just mentioned—it proved impossible to ensure the proper quality of field and specialized training.

Lessons have been learned from last year's experience. Our main efforts are now focused on ensuring planned combat training, cohesion among the personnel, and the meaningful resolution of the social and domestic problems being faced by servicemen and their families.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] We realize that it is impossible to solve these problems immediately or overnight. But surely there has been some progress?

[Shaposhnikov] Naturally. Remember how Russian President B.N. Yeltsin spoke at the All-Army Officers' Assembly about returning to the Armed Forces the apartments they are owed? We have already seen the first results. Thus the other day the Moscow Government announced that it was allocating 14,700 square meters of housing to servicemen. A 280 apartment block to be handed over to the military is under construction in Novosibirsk and an 80 apartment block will be built for officers' families in Chelyabinsk. We are receiving good news from Penza, Novokuznetsk, Tatarstan, and other Russian oblasts and republics. This is a good addition to the 67,000 apartments which we are planning to build this year with our own resources.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] The Russian presidential decree "On Measures To Increase Social Protection for Servicemen and Persons Discharged From Military Service" was published yesterday.

[Shaposhnikov] Yes, it was greeted with immense gratitude in the Armed Forces. In essence, this document defines a range of specific measures whose implementation will make it possible to bring the socioeconomic position of servicemen appreciably closer to a level in line with our difficult military work and the high calling of defenders of the fatherland.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] Obviously, similar steps might be taken by the leaders of other Commonwealth states too.

[Shaposhnikov] I think that would be entirely logical. After all, the documents signed by the Commonwealth heads of state in Minsk on 14 February included the Agreement on Social and Legal Guarantees for Servicemen, Persons Discharged From Military Service, and Their Family Members. It stresses the need to take coordinated measures in this sphere and to create the necessary living standards for servicemen and the conditions for them to carry out their military service duties. It also mentions the obligation incumbent on Commonwealth states to elaborate and adopt mutually coordinated acts of legislation on the social protection of servicemen, persons discharged from military service, and their family members.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] How do you assess the results of the February meeting in Minsk as a whole? And what do you expect from the Kiev meeting?

[Shaposhnikov] On the whole, the results were very significant and weighty. In essence, the documents adopted in Minsk could be the foundation of a planned

and, I would say, civilized transformation of the former USSR Armed Forces to the Commonwealth Joint Armed Forces.

Despite the fact that a number of participants in the meeting have different approaches to the resolution of certain problems of defense building, there is far more common ground in the positions. I have already mentioned the agreement on social and legal guarantees. Apart from this, agreements were signed on Armed Forces funding; the status of the Strategic Forces; the General Purpose Forces; and a Commonwealth defense ministers' council. The interests of each independent sovereign state and the Commonwealth as a whole are organically intertwined in these documents.

I expect the Kiev meeting to continue this constructive and productive work and to ensure further progress on the coordinated, joint resolution of the problems of defense building and the everyday functioning of the Armed Forces. On 20 March it is planned to discuss and adopt agreements on the powers of the top Commonwealth organs on defense questions, on the legal basis for the Joint Armed Forces' activity, on the principles governing staffing and service, on law enforcement organs, and a number of other documents.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] What, in the light of the Minsk agreements, is the structure of the Armed Forces and the system for administering them?

[Shaposhnikov] The Commonwealth's supreme coordinating organ on defense matters is the Council of Heads of State. The commander in chief of the Joint Armed Forces is subordinate to it. The High Command includes the Joint Armed Forces General Staff and two commands.

The first is the Strategic Forces Command. The list of specific military formations and installations relating to these forces is determined by each state in agreement with the Strategic Forces and is ratified by the Council of Heads of State.

The second is the General Purpose Forces Command. Troops which are not included in the Strategic Forces or in Commonwealth states' own armed forces are subordinate to it. Including, for instance, the troops of the 14th Guards Army stationed in the Dnestr area. Moreover, at the Commonwealth states' decision independent states' armed forces may be made operationally subordinate to the General Purpose Forces Command. In particular, this decision has been made by the Uzbek leadership.

Three states—Ukraine, Azerbaijan, and Moldova—are setting up their own armed forces. In Ukraine they have to all intents and purposes been set up. Groups of military experts headed by Colonel General B. Gromov and Colonel General B. Pyankov respectively have been set up to jointly resolve with Azerbaijan and Moldova the whole range of matters arising in this respect. They began work 18 February.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] You have mentioned the problems arising during the creation of states' own armed forces. What are you referring to?

[Shaposhnikov] Above all, the approaches and timetables used by each independent state in implementing its right to have its own armed forces. This is an exceptionally crucial and serious matter. It will brook no haste, unilateral decisions or strong arm pressure—still less overtly criminal, illegal actions involving unilateral takeovers. The Commonwealth heads of state stated 14 February that is impermissible to use or threaten to use force and that it is necessary to resolve disputes by exclusively peaceful means.

But what, in particular, will happen in connection with the events around Nagorno-Karabakh? Encroachments on the Transcaucasus Military District's arms, military hardware, stores, and materiel are continuing. Persistent attempts are being made to draw servicemen into the conflict. It is not difficult to imagine what would happen if the Azerbaijani leadership's intention to set up its own armed forces based on the Transcaucasus Military District's 4th Army were realized and if, in response to this, Armenia were to set up its own armed forces based on the Transcaucasus Military District's 7th Army. The prospect of regular troops being drawn into combat operations is a gloomy one. It would mark the transformation of a conflict—which can and should be settled by political means—into a large scale war. That would mean bloodshed, massive casualties, and destruction. It would be a road to a war escalating beyond the confines of the region. It would be a direct threat to the security not only of neighboring states, but of the entire world.

Clearly, this cannot be permitted. I am profoundly convinced that until a political solution and a complete settlement of Nagorno-Karabakh's problems are reached the states of the Transcaucasian region need to refrain from creating their own armed forces.

I think that, given the actual situation on Moldova, it would be expedient for Moldova also to postpone the creation of its own army.

This approach, in my view, accords not with short-term political requirements, but with the fundamental interests of the peoples of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Moldova, and all the Commonwealth peoples.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] The problems of defense building and the Armed Forces are not only of domestic importance, they have great foreign policy importance too. In particular, this applies to the fulfillment of accords in the disarmament and arms control sphere.

[Shaposhnikov] You are right—what is happening in the military sphere has a major international impact. The Commonwealth states have stated their resolve to unswervingly fulfill the former USSR's commitments in the disarmament sphere. But the reality is that, for instance, it is already 16 months since the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe was signed, but it has not

yet been ratified by all the states—including Commonwealth states—whose territories are covered by the treaty. The situation is complicated by the fact that the levels of conventional arms defined for the entire former Union and differentiated region by region are to be redistributed among the Commonwealth states, taking account of the existence of the Joint Armed Forces, the creation by some states of their own armed forces, and, of course, the observance of the interests of all states located in the area covered by the treaty. Obviously, meaningful talks and agreement on this issue are essential. An agreement should be examined and signed by the Commonwealth heads of state at the forthcoming Kiev meeting.

As for the START Treaty, the best option would be for it to be ratified by Russia and for Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan to associate themselves [prisoyedinyatsya] with this act.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] Items appear in the local and foreign press from time to time reflecting the public's concern at the state of control [kontrol] of nuclear weapons.

[Shaposhnikov] There are no grounds for such concern. Centralized command and control of nuclear weapons in the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] Joint Armed Forces is guaranteed to be reliable. The withdrawal of tactical nuclear weapons from Ukrainian and Belarussian territory to salvage and destruction bases at plants [predzavodskiye bazy utilizatsii i unichtozheniya] on Russian territory is proceeding strictly according to plan. Currently around half of these munitions have been transferred. The work will be complete by 1 July this year.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] Could you say just a few words about the Russian president's latest disarmament initiatives?

[Shaposhnikov] These are major political initiatives of historic importance. They stem from the context of our strategic line of reciprocal and total nuclear disarmament. Of course, they require very major military-technical elaboration and the creation of a mechanism for their implementation. But that is an essential practical task stemming from any political act in the sphere of defense and disarmament. For instance, the reciprocal refusal to target strategic arms against installations in the Russian Federation and the United States, the phased reciprocal transition to single warhead [monoblochnyy] ICBM's and submarine-launched ballistic missiles, and the joint development, creation, and operation of a global ABM defense system could all become a real basis for genuinely reliable strategic stability and universal security and peace.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] What can you say about the statements and warnings about a possible military coup staged by the Armed Forces?

[Shaposhnikov] These are fabrications—and by no means harmless fabrications, since, one way or another, they serve to alienate the Army from and set it in opposition to the people.

I would like to recall in this connection that our Army is part of the people. And this is not a declaration, this is life. Remember last August. Thanks, above all, to the position of the Army—which remained loyal to the people and did not support the plot—the coup failed. Today too this principled position is unchanged. The Armed Forces do not take part and will never take part in political games, they will not take up arms against their own people.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] What would be your wish for servicemen on the eve of Armed Forces Day?

[Shaposhnikov] Above all—calm, endurance, firmness, and responsibility. Those today are the main guarantee and the decisive condition for the worthy fulfillment by the Army and Navy of its duty to the fatherland.

The essence of this duty is to serve the people conscientiously and honestly.

Shaposhnikov Answers Questions

LD2202180192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0920 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Question and answer session with Air Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the Commonwealth of Independent States Armed Forces, in the Russian TV Studio in Moscow; "How Are We Going To Live?" program presented by Irina Lapina, also reading questions telephoned in to Shaposhnikov—live]

[Text] [Lapina] Hello, here is our live program entitled "How Are We Going To Live?" I would like to ask the producer to show the picture with our contact telephone number. Here you can see it now. 2174563.

Our guest today is Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, recently the minister of defense, and nowadays commander in chief of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] Unified Armed Forces. Yevgeniy Ivanovich, you are the first military man in our program, but of course this is not the reason why I am welcoming you here especially warmly. I remember your answers when you were still a deputy and were being vetted for the ministerial post. Your answers were precise, military style, but also humanely wise. So let us start our program—and now we have a couple of minutes while the questions are being prepared so help me to clarify one point.

The change of your title is, naturally, connected with the breakup of the Union and with the formation of the CIS. So, what about the Unified Armed Forces? Have there been the same changes as with the Union? I ask because the process could not fail to influence the Army. So, do we have an army as a single whole at the moment, or is

what we call Unified Armed Forces as different from the old Army as the CIS is different from the USSR? Let us start from here.

[Shaposhnikov] Thank you. Dear television viewers, many greetings, I will certainly try to answer all your questions, and as far as possible, will do so during the program. Well, on the first issue, I would like to say the following: Indeed, with the formation of the CIS—and the CIS as we know is neither a state nor a superstate superstructure. Therefore, there are naturally no ministers in charge of any area within the CIS. Therefore, in connection with changes that have taken place in our states, a change in the Armed Forces has taken place, since the Army is part of society. We have actually been fighting for a long time for the armed forces to be unified. In my opinion, this is the most acceptable idea for a transitional stage since so many visible as well as invisible links connected all our states—take the common economy, the common military-strategic space, the common procurement system of the troops, the common system of orders for equipment and weapons. Groups of armed forces were located on the territory of the former Union, regardless of the administrative borders of the states, and so on and so forth. Therefore, we have been repeatedly puting forward this idea of unified armed forces.

However, at the last Minsk meeting of the heads of independent states a decision was made—at last—and I am actually pleased that there is some clarity now. Because, you know, some people had been talking about unified, others about single, yet others about independent [armed forces], and so on and so forth. The eight states that decided to stick to the position of unified armed forces, that is, unified by the common aims and tasks that I have just been talking about, they decided to create unified armed forces.

Well, three states did not join this agreement. They are on their way toward the creation of their own armed forces. One of the issues was that of the command of the Unified Armed Forces. Therefore, you know, there has to be a commander in chief of the Unified Armed Forces. The Council of Heads of States decided to appoint me. There are also two command authorities that have been set up—the strategic forces and the general purpose forces, which are organizationally included into this chief command authority. All other candidates for the positions of commanders of specific services will be confirmed at the next meeting in Kiev on the 20th [of March].

[Lapina] Yevgeniy Ivanovich, here is the question with which I think we could start our conversation. Bragin, Nizhniy Novgorod. At some stage alot was being written in the newspapers on the need for a professional army. Is there going to be one? Well, I think Yevgeniy Ivanovich, if we have to answer this question then we have to be very brief. We hardly need to assess the pros and cons of a professional army. The question is whether we can afford one at the moment. However, it would be worth giving some information on the military reform.

[Shaposhnikov] Yes, we have been talking alot about military reform for a long time. This discussion began before the August events. Two concepts were elaborated. One concept was an unofficial one. It was advocated by a group of officers and peoples deputies of the USSR—as it then was—and by some Russian deputies. Another concept was worked out in the Defense Ministry, in the former Defense Ministry. I would like to say that the more radical reform, or reform concept, was elaborated by the officers. The reform elaborated by the Defense Ministry was milder and covered a longer period, and to a large extent was a cosmetic reform.

Therefore, as soon I took over the post of defense minister I would like to say that I, as it were, combined these two reforms into one. We began implementing it. But at that time the Union still existed. The first steps that we managed to take are at present being implemented. But then there began this confusion over defining the armed forces, defining them as independent for some states, and so on. The actual reform of the armed forces themselves was slowed down somewhat, I admit this. This was because I was devoting all my strength and energy to somehow trying, in the broad sense, to preserve the armed forces as a whole. We are at present working on the internal reforms.

Now we have made the decision to hold a meeting, literally sometime after 23 February—actually on the 27th and 28th—with the defense ministers of the Commonwealth countries at which we will begin elaborating the documents that will guide the reform. Therefore, it can be said that the reform is progressing in two directions. In the large and broad sense it is a reform of the armed forces on the scale of the Commonwealth countries. The second part in the narrow sense is the part that directly concerns the armed forces themselves.

[Lapina] Thank you. Here is a question from Levashov from St. Petersburg. What is your attitude toward the symbols of the Russian Army—the banners, orders, titles, and so on? We all have a good attitude to them, Yevgeniy Ivanovich, but this is clearly a question about reviving all of this—the St. Andrew's banner, the St. George Cross, horseguard, cornet, lieutenant [poruchik]; they are beautiful names, aren't they?

[Shaposhnikov] Yes, this is also in the general context of the military reform, because if we acknowledge the right of every state to have its own armed forces then, of course, we need to give up in part the previous symbols and the old traditions and to return to our age-old Russian traditions, our age-old Russian uniform, our age-old Russian symbols. Of course, all this is fine. I would reply that, of course I share the positive opinion on this question. In particular, I was at a concert yesterday and one particular song is imprinted on my heart: God and St. Andrew's banner are with us. That was fine.

[Lapina] Of course. Yevgeniy Ivanovich, here is a question which has been put by Sergey Cherkashin from Moscow. This question is worrying many people at present, and this theme has been touched upon in previous broadcasts, too: What do you think about the redrawing of borders? If one looks at history, then territorial claims have been the most frequent cause for the outbreak of wars. Well, the independent states really do have a lot of claims. What is going to happen, Yevgeniy Ivanovich?

[Shaposhnikov] I am categorically opposed to redrawing all the borders that exist between the CIS states since this could lead to very severe consequences. In general there are no precedents. At the initial stage, before the formation of the CIS, there was some mention of this. But at the present time the political leaders of our states have shown sufficient responsibility and wisdom; on 14 February in Minsk an agreement was signed to the effect that the countries of the Commonwealth would never use armed force against each other. In the same way it has been declared that all questions that arise can be resolved only by political methods, peacefully, by means of talks. The redrawing of borders, you know this...

[Lapina, interrupting] Will lead to no good.

A question from Smirnov of Moscow: Why is military hardware that is to be converted being sold in an inefficient manner?

[Shaposhnikov] Regarding sales of hardware, what do I want to say here? Our Army is being cut at present and we have been compelled to draw up inventories of all our military property. It has emerged that we have surplus military property, especially that which is no longer in use or has been written off, and so on. Therefore, on the basis of a government decision, we have set up a commercial center which is selling that property. I want to give a slightly broader answer here, because everybody has descended on the Army, thinking they can get rich at the Army's expense now by buying something, and so on. There have even been moments when apparently decent people, whole delegations, have come to see me and sought to convince me that Russia has always been an agricultural country, that Russia's farmers need equipment, and so on. I agreed with this, and then they asked me to sell them some equipment at a clearance price. I went ahead and sold them the equipment at a clearance price, but then a month later we saw that equipment at auctions being sold for 20 times as much.

We have now stopped that, so we allocate this equipment to those agricultural cooperatives, and so on, only with a decision from the government. The rest we sell at auction ourselves, in order to make social provision for our servicemen; above all, we channel that money into housing.

[Lapina] Thank you. There are some questions here which I simply cannot overlook. Teryukhina of Saratov asks: Yevgeniy Ivanovich, on behalf of all mothers I ask you not to send Russian lads to places where wars are going on. Let them sort things out themselves. Our boys are dying. It is even hard to read this: there are very many questions like this. Soldiers on compulsory service are sometimes really just boys, and how many tragedies there are. What is your opinion on the Army's role in so-called interethnic disputes? They do need to be quelled and contained somehow, and the heat needs to be taken out of them, but on the other hand there is no need to send young boys into that furnace.

[Shaposhnikov] Yes, I agree with you. My position is that the Army should never—and in no circumstances—be used in interethnic conflicts, or to solve political tasks, or to back particular aspirations of individual leaders within the CIS. Therefore, taking advantage of the agreement reached by the heads of state in Minsk on the nonuse of the armed forces in dealings with each other, I sent all the heads of state an appeal on 19th [not further specified]. That appeal contained three points. The first was that they should apply all their political sense and all their political authority to settling the Karabakh problem peacefully. The second was that national armed forces should not be set up in the CIS countries in the Transcaucasian region until there is a political settlement of the Karabakh problem, since it is clear for what or how those armed forces would be used. The third was that they ought probably, perhaps, to think about establishing within the CIS, in addition to the armed forces, some kind of body or corps along the lines of the United Nations, which could be used to stabilize the situation in a particular region, but only volunteers could be sent to that corps. We are now finalizing proposals to this effect, and we shall put them forward in specific form in Kiev on 20 March.

However, I want to reassure you that, in general, my view concides with Terekhova's—was that her name?

[Lapina] We have Teryukhina, Ilyukovskaya, and other questions.

[Shaposhnikov] I am categorically against our lads taking part in these interethnic conflicts, and I am doing everything to make sure it does not happen.

[Lapina] Thank you. A question from Aleksandr Ivanovich Sokolov, a retired major: When will pensions be paid to servicemen discharged before the latest wage increases in 1992? In general, I have here a whole list on officers' social problems. I am not going to read them all out. You obviously know all these problems; you are very familiar with them. Tell us briefly about various ways of solving them: housing, increasing military pensions, the living conditions of retired officers, which this particular question deals with, the Baltics, and arrangements for families that have come back from the Eastern European countries, and so on. There are a whole range of questions.

[Shaposhnikov] I see. This matter is the sorest point at the moment. What Moscow Mayor Gavriil Kharitonovich Popov was saying yesterday stuck in my mind. He said that the military would look after their own

military problems for themselves. But from the viewpoint of social problems they naturally need help. I want to preface my reply to the question as follows. In the past, indeed throughout the existence of the Soviet Army, we had a situation whereby we somehow did things at people's expense. If someone had to be transferred or a garrison, regiment, or formation had to be set up, first people were sent out, the tents were erected, and then it was our lofty dream that we would sort ourselves out properly in due course. I do not know any more lofty dream than concern for people. There is none.

At the same time the slogans around at the time were: All For Man; Everything For The Good Of Man; and so on. What happened was that the Army needed housing. So they were told to build it. Let us set up construction detachments! Let us create construction subunits! Let them build! The people, the Army had to be fed. Go and set up your own state farms, and so on. The Army ceased being an Army. The Army started doing things for itself. That is utterly wrong. I dream of a time when the Army will never have to worry about where it is to live, what it is to eat, and how it is to be clothed, and I am now doing everything I can to this end. That is why a number of CIS leaders are at present taking very serious steps with regard to the social protection of servicemen.

I would like to note that the government—in particular Russian President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin—was one of the first to issue a number of decrees. I regard his latest decree as a sort of present for Army Day, Armed Forces Day, containing as it does very considerable and substantial improvements on the issue of social protection. In particular, the minimum pay has been increased for officers, lieutenants, and platoon commanders to 1,800 rubles [R].

Second, on being demobilized from the Army, a soldier is issued with R500. If the soldier is an orphan he gets R2,000. Apart from that it is envisaged that plots of land will be allocated for the construction of residential houses for officers being discharged from the Armed Forces—a quarter of a hectare of land in rural areas and one-tenth in urban settlements, plus a 50 percent free loan for the building work.

There are a large number of other provisions. At present we are working on the proposals defined in the decree and are putting them on a practical footing. In light of the reduction in the Armed Forces, a proportion of our officers will have to be discharged. But we have now also sent a draft decree to the Russian president under which all these pension benefits for officers who have served 25 years would be switched to a 20 year term. Thus if someone has served 20 years, irrespective of age, he should be entitled to all these benefits. People should be able to go through this painlessly. It is not their fault that the Army is being reduced, is it? It is a general trend. People join the Army to serve, but they can be told: Excuse me, Ivan Ivanovich, you have to get your discharge. So that is why we are taking these steps now.

As far as the specific question is concerned, I want to tell you that because we have a large number of pensioners and the CIS states have not reached a specific accord on pensions and social protection for servicemen, the issue has gotten bogged down. Unjustifiably so in some ways, I must say. Following the accord reached at the latest meeting in Minsk on the financing of the Armed Forces and the social protection of servicemen, there is an opportunity now to deal with this matter more quickly. I think that in the first six months of the year we will have dealt with these issues, and I must of course apologize to pensioners, both on my own behalf and on behalf of my subordinates, that we have been delaying this so long.

[Lapina] Thank you. Now this question; It is not the only one. I keep addressing you by your first name and patronymic, but you are a Marshal. Abramov in Donetsk asks how you should be addressed—as Comrade Marshal or Mr. Marshal? And Vyacheslav Dmitriyevich Lanikin in Lipetsk says that very many people are beginning to say Mr, but to go by your recent speech at the Officers' Assembly, the Army does not want to give up the word comrade. If you could reply to that, Yevgeniy Ivanovich, I will know how to address you from now on!

[Shaposhnikov] Well, I would like to say that anyone, irrespective of whether he is civilian or military, may address me by name and patronymic, and by this I am not degrading the Army, since some people think that I degrade the Army by this. I once said in your television studio, admittedly on a different program—Without Retouching—that our rules say that a serviceman may never be addressed by name and patronymic, that is we make him forget his name and the name of his father; putting it straight, that is simply disgraceful. Therefore, there is nothing wrong in addressing me by name and patronymic, this is even good. I think this is the democratization of our Army, admittedly in some small ways, but nevertheless.

Second, with regard to the word Mister [Gospodin], I think we will not put the question this way at present; time will show what we will come to. At present the rules say to address each other by the word comrade—in principle this is not a bad word. Therefore we will wait and see.

[Lapina] Thank you, Comrade Marshal. Here is our next question. Kulagina from Yaroslavl oblast: Will the personnel in military committees, officers and warrant officers, be made redundant?

[Shaposhnikov] Partly they will. I do not want to say everybody and everywhere, but since the Army is being reduced, in some way military committees and their employees will be reduced. But I would like to mention one more thing: We have very many officers occupying posts where civilians could manage quite successfully. Now I receive letters from construction organizations—let us call them theoretically offices—and various trade enterprises, and so on and so forth. There are even complaints; recently a woman wrote a letter saying: I

work in a directorate together with a serviceman, and I come to work and leave work with the serviceman, so to speak, and during working hours he goes out for a smoke break several times and so on and so forth. He receives money for his military rank and as a result—social injustice. I agree and we are reconsidering this at the moment. There are a number of posts where servicemen can be easily replaced by civilians or retired servicemen who are one of us and know these questions.

[Lapina] Thank you. There are some similar questions, maybe we will be able to answer them quickly. Nadezhda Alekseyevna Linkina from Volgograd. Will there be reductions in the numbers of military command schools, specifically, for example, in St. Petersburg?

[Shaposhnikov] Well, about the schools. I would like to say that if we compare the number of military schools and academies, say, in the United States—we have always compared ourselves to them—and in our country, the comparison is not actually in our favor. I mean there are about 10 military high schools in America while we have more than 150. Of course, I would like to say that the schools and academies will be reduced. This is absoutely definite. As to St. Petersburg, we are now working on this issue. There is the withdrawal of troops from the Baltics, and the transferral of a number of schools and academies from the Baltic Military District, or from the Northwestern Group of Forces. We are working on these issues at the moment, together with the mayor's office of St. Peterburg. I had a talk on this matter with [Mayor of St. Petersburg] Anatoliy Aleksandrovich Sobchak and with comrade Shcherbakov [not further identified]. Of course, we will be reducing the number of schools.

[Lapina] Here is another important question, I would even say, a global one. The future of the nuclear weapons worries the whole world at the moment. Besides, there is anxiety that our nuclear physicists will travel all over the world and will help make a bomb for those who actually should not have it. Well, the question is as follows: Nuclear weapons are going to be retargeted. But where? Here you are. Could you answer this, without revealing military secrets, of course?

[Shaposhnikov] There are, in fact, quite a few questions to do with nuclear weapons. Well, if we start from the strategic nuclear weapons, I would like to say that the heads of states addressed this issue with a great deal of responsibility and common sense. They decided that neither strategic nor tactical nuclear weapons will be allowed to spread. They are subordinate to a single commanding body and are placed under single control. They belong to a system of strategic forces on the territory of the CIS. Therefore, they are deployed on the territory of four states—up to a certain point in time—and then, probably in the near future or in the foreseeable future, they will be located only on the territory of one state. This is the first thing.

The second thing is, as far as tactical nuclear weapons are concerned, the tactical nuclear weapons are at the moment being withdrawn from those states of the CIS which have them. At the moment they are only left on the territory of two states—well, shall we say three states—Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia.

They are being transferred to the territory of Russia. We are receiving a great number of various offers from our Western partners to the effect that, you know, we can help you to transport, store, guard, dismantle, etc. I will tell you: In such a sensitive matter as nuclear weapons, the fewer helpers the better.

[Lapina] We will try to cope with it.

[Shaposhnikov] Yes, we have good experience in transportation, storage, and so on. But as regards their dismantling and the reprocessing, say, of weapons grade uranium and plutonium into the industrial variety, we are receiving offers and we are studying the technologies on offer to us, and if they are cheaper and more favorable then we might agree to use those technologies. In this connection Russian President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin has done a lot of work with our nuclear physicists. He has brought them together and promised to protect them socially, to increase their wage levels, and to keep them fully occupied, including with this problem, the dismantling of nuclear weapons.

As far as the question of retargeting is concerned, let us not talk of retargeting but nontargeting. That would be better. The phrase has frightened some people. We allowed an inaccuracy to creep in somewhere. I want to tell you that this means lowering the level of alert duty in the sense of reducing to zero the flight assignments of missiles [snizheniye urovnya boyegogo dezhurstva s tochki zreniya obnuleniya poletnykh zadaniy raket]. The experts will understand that.

[Lapina] I see, thank you. Here we have a question on the rank of Marshal. The essence of the question is this: What is to happen to people who have been awarded the rank of marshal of the Soviet Union. There is no Union, so are there any marshals?

[Shaposhnikov] You know, my view of history is this: We should not forget the history of the Russian state, from Ivan the Terrible, Peter the First, and so on, and we should not throw out the history of the Soviet period either. If a man is a marshal of the Soviet Union let him stay one, let him be a marshal of the Soviet Union, but in future we shall obviously say goodbye to that title. In other words, we shall not award that rank, but the four marshals of the Soviet Union that we have now are alive and well and helping me in my work, and long may they continue.

[Lapina] Fine. Here is a question from Kazaryan of St. Petersburg: There is information that Turkey's 3d Field Army is being deployed along the borders of the CIS. What can the esteemed Marshal say in this regard?

[Shaposhnikov] I want to say that each year Turkey holds exercises with its 3d Field Army. They are called Kis-92, or Winter-92, and they involve studying questions of operational combat training in winter conditions. They are not new exercises. They are held annually and are unconnected with events going on in Nagorno-Karabakh. Therefore, we are monitoring this situation and we are in contact with the Turkish diplomatic corps on this matter. Generally there is so far no reason to be afraid here.

[Lapina] A question has come from Tatyana Aleksandrovna Tsurygina of Rostov-on-Don. What will happen to cadets at military academies who are on the territory of Ukraine and have not taken the oath? They are our Russian cadets.

[Shaposhnikov] I would like to say the following in general about servicemen in Ukraine who have not taken the oath. Some servicemen are declaring that they are experiencing a negative attitude. I can believe that; for example, take the commanders of troops in the military districts. Three commanders of troops in military districts have been relieved of their duties, and at present they have been withdrawn on my order. Regarding junior and senior officers, the Ukrainian leadership is assuring us, or declaring, that no sanctions will be applied against them. I want to believe this and to hope that we can settle these matters in a civilized manner, especially as I know that some 200,000 servicemen are expressing a desire to leave Russia for Ukraine. This is why I have always insisted on a transitional period, a transitional period of two or three years, or maybe five, which would be even better, for the specific purpose of settling these issues calmly. Ukraine is setting up an army and nobody is going to stop it from doing so, but there is no need to insult servicemen or to raise any obstacles, and so on. At the same time, however, they must not be transferred like this immediately.

This is because you know yourself what social tension exists in Russia and elsewhere where housing is concerned. That is why I think we will of course all the same arrive at a solution to this matter. I believe that those who are currently studying in Ukraine will finish their studies successfully and will be posted to where they want to go, if they do not wish to serve in Ukraine. So if things become altogether unbearable let them ask us and we will make it possible for them to study here, as it were. But this question is very complicated and it is not easy to resolve if you set yourself the goal of resolving it very efficiently and quickly. It is easy here to cause uproars and that is why we will tackle these questions in a calm way during the transition period.

[Lapina] Thank you. The next question is very specific. Andrey Vasilyevich Lobanov from St. Peterburg asks: Is the Army prepared to defend the legitimate Russian Government if the opposition once again wants to carry out a military coup?

[Shaposhnikov] That is an interesting way of putting it: opposition and military coup.

[Lapina] So many words, all together.

[Shaposhnikov] Yes, what does this mean? If there is a military coup then it is the Army that is carrying it out. Second, the Army does not oppose any government. I would like to say the following to Comrade Lobanov: When such questions arise—and they arose at our Officers Assembly—let us issue an ultimatum to the presidents. Let them come here, let them change their minds, let them come out in favor of a Unified Armed Forces, and so on and so on. But I do not see the Army as resolving political questions. That is not the Army's task.

Second, from the point of view of presenting ultimatums. Our presidents were elected by the people. If the Army presents an ultimatum to the president then it is presenting an ultimatum to the people. The Army is obliged to defend the people. That is what the Army is for. Therefore, I am far from thinking that there will be some new military coup. The Army is prepared to defend the legally elected government, the legally elected presidents.

[Lapina] Yevgeniy Ivanovich, there have been very many telegrams containing good wishes and greetings. Yevgeniy Ivanovich, I greet you on the day of the Soviet Army, all the best to you. Send me greetings, too; Furkin, Moscow, invalid second group. Artem Belousov: We send you greetings on behalf of the collective of the military orchestra of the Zhukovskiy Academy; our very best wishes to you, we always support you. I want to greet our minister on Soviet Army Day; we are former frontline soldiers. In connection with these greetings telegrams there are many questions concerning the rally due to be held tomorrow to mark Soviet Army Day.

[Shaposhnikov] You know what I want to say. An army that goes on rallies is not an army. So my attitude to members of the military who attend rallies is unequivocally negative. What is there for people in shoulder boards, greatcoats, and uniforms to do at these rallies? I do not know. When I sometimes see individual officers on television appearing at rallies and saying things—happily, we do not have many who want to—I think to myself that this shows the desire of negative political forces to draw the Army into political matters. So I once again want to make an appeal to our officers: You should not get involved in political games. Do not let yourself be drawn into all manner of adventures.

We now have many people who champion the Army and who would be its rescuers, but the laws currently being adopted in Russia and in other states will provide welfare protection for the Army. As for the military issues, the Army will itself find it possible to sort them out. We have no need, as it were, of helpers of this kind.

[Lapina] We have some specific questions and I hope we will be able to provide brief answers to them. Valentina

Vladimirovna Vishnyakova from Moscow is interested with regard to how long recruits will have to serve in the future—she is worried about her children.

[Shaposhnikov] In the future recruits will serve for a year and a half. We have now agreed—last time in Minsk, on 14 February, we sorted this out—we agreed on the transfer to the contractual basis of service. The period of service stipulated by the contracts will of course be longer—three to five years.

[Lapina] Anatoliy Pavlovich Malinin from Moscow is interested in whether sailors called up in the fall of 1989 will be discharged. Will they be discharged in the spring of this year or not? This concerns sailors called up in 1989.

[Shaposhnikov] The year 1989? The spring call-up, is that right?

[Lapina] The fall one.

[Shaposhnikov] The fall call-up 1989.

[Lapina] Yes, will those called up in the fall be discharged in the spring?

[Shaposhnikov] I want to tell sailors that we will resolve everything in its own good time. This is because we are currently counting the contingent of those who were recruited and those sailors who are being discharged. You know, at all times the Army ought to be within the framework of some sort of figures, as it were, pertaining to its establishment. That is why an answer to this question will have to wait until somewhat later.

[Lapina] Good, thank you. Yevgeniy Ivanovich, I very much regret to say that our broadcast is coming to an end.

[Shaposhnikov] So quickly!

[Lapina] Yes, so quickly. Traditionally our last question is always linked to forecasts. People are always interested in the way events will develop in the near future. At present very many people connect the way events will develop with the way the Army behaves in a particular situation. What is your forecast? What lies in store for us as winter comes to an end; what lies in store in spring and summer? How are we going to live?

[Shaposhnikov] Of course, from the viewpoint of the economy we need to get through the spring because, as a rule, it is better in summer than in winter. In the sense that things are a bit easier. Therefore, in the first place I think we will come out of our present state calmly. Second, I am an optimist by nature and I think that although there have been many forecasts of all sorts about the CIS—it will distintegrate, split up, crumble, and so on—we should make fewer forecasts of this sort because the CIS is like a small newborn child. It will not stand up to sudden careless movements, and it needs to be pampered a bit so that we and the other states of the CIS emerge onto the right path.

I draw optimism from the fact that from one meeting to the next, among the heads of states, and on resolving military questions, we are moving forward, even if not very rapidly and even if not as we would like. Nonetheless, we have more mutual understanding than lack of it. That is why I make such forecasts.

If you will allow me, I would like to appeal to all our servicemen—soldiers, sailors, sergeants, noncommissioned officers, warrant officers, officers, generals, and admirals. I would like to congratulate all of you, esteemed friends, on our coming professional holiday.

I would like to make particular mention of the role or of the servicemen who are serving in so-called hotspots. These include the servicemen in the Transcaucasus; they include, to a certain extent, the Northwestern Group of Forces, the former Baltic Military District. At the present time I would like to make special mention of those servicemen who are on direct combat duty, who are on ships at sea, who sit at control panels, at radars, and who are guarding our calm and peaceful sky above our peoples.

I would like to say particularly warm words of greeting to the veterans of our armed forces, our invalids from the Great Patriotic War, and other wars. I would like to tell them that we are doing all we can in order to ease the fate of this category of people. I would like to apeal to our servicemen's wives and their children. Undoubtedly they also steadfastly bear the difficulties and deprivations that the Army is experiencing. Many thanks to you for this.

I would like to appeal to the manual and office workers who are also not as socially protected as they should be; unfortunately we do not say much about them. Nonetheless, we see your problems, too.

In conclusion, I would like once again to congratulate everyone on the coming holiday, Armed Forces Day, to wish everyone good health, success, and achievement in service, and family happiness. All the very best.

I would like to thank you very much, Irina Yuryevna, for the invitation and for the opportunity to talk to the viewers and to reply to their questions. I would ask you to give me the questions that the viewers have not received replies to and we will reply to them, either via the mass media or personally.

[Lapina] Thank you, Yevgeniy Ivanovich, for taking part in our program.

Minsk Results Discussed

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[Interview with Marshal Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the Commonwealth of Independent States Armed Forces, by unidentified reporter; place and date not given; from the "Itogi" newscast—recorded]

[Text] Here is how Marshal Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, assessed the results of the Minsk meeting in an interview especially for the "Itogi" program.

[Shaposhnikov] The results of the Minsk meeting are more positive than negative. The main positive aspect, in my view, lies in the fact that we have finally decided which states want to have their own armed forces and which ones belong to the joint Armed Forces.

[Reporter] Do you think that the Army is disintegrating in the wake of the state?

[Shaposhnikov] I would endorse that point of view.

[Reporter] One hears the view that the destiny of the Army should be resolved primarily by the officers, by professional servicemen, and not by politicians.

[Shaposhnikov] It is time for the officers, those who think this way, and other people who think we are living in some kind of a united state to realize that we are already in a different dimension.

[Reporter] Do you exclude the possibility of a coup?

[Shaposhnikov] According to the information I have at my disposal, the situation in the Army is manageable. The most difficult situation—I would like to say this here on television—is in the Transcaucasus region and partly in the northern Caucasus. Of particular concern to me is, of course, the Transcaucasian region. The Republic of Azerbaijan is currently talking about its own army. Many officers do not understand this and probably have no desire to serve in the Azerbaijani Army, as this suggests that they could be used for the wrong purpose, as it were, inside a state in interethnic conflicts. If things go that far, I am categorically opposed to Azerbaijan creating its own army.

Navy's Kapitanets Insists on Russia's Rights

MK2202093092 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian No. 6, 13 Feb 92 p 5

[Interview with Fleet Admiral I. Kapitanets, Commonwealth of Independent States Navy first deputy commander, by Valeriy Razuvayev; place and date not given; first paragraph is introduction: "Russia Must Have a Navy!"]

[Excerpt] The above words were first uttered almost 300 years ago and they have recently begun to be heard again. They reflect both the glorious history of the Russian Fleet and the current fate of the Black Sea flotilla. Fleet Admiral Ivan Kapitanets, CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] Navy first deputy commander, answers our correspondent's questions.

[Razuvayev] Ivan Matveyevich, "rough political waters" can now be observed off our shores in the Black Sea. One of Rukh's leaders, V. Chornovil, chairman of the Lvov Oblast Soviet, said recently that the presidents of Ukraine and Russia are artificially fueling the Black Sea Fleet problem. That this is being done to divert the people's attention from their urgent needs. B. Yeltsin's visit to Black Sea units is regarded as an "incorrect, undiplomatic step aimed against Ukraine. Just a propaganda visit."

[Kapitanets] That is a political statement and I do not want to comment on it. I will just give our opinion, which I upheld during the talks. First, the Black Sea Fleet is a component part of the naval forces, which are in turn part of the strategic forces; all this is recorded in the Minsk agreements. The Fleet cannot be used as political small change. Its purpose is different, more concrete. The Black Sea Fleet in the southwest military theater, as an operational-strategic formation, performs tasks in the interests of the entire Commonwealth, within its own operations zone. Incidentally, a zone where there are still powerful NATO military groupings. That is why we need a fleet there. How our new relations with NATO countries will develop is another matter.

Second, Ukraine is not the only Commonwealth state with an outlet on the Black Sea. In addition to Russia, there are also Moldova and Georgia. That is why Ukraine's claims are not valid. If we look at it from the historical viewpoint, the Black Sea Fleet was founded in 1783 after Russian troops liberated Crimea. For more than 200 years it performed the kind of tasks that I have already mentioned. This cannot be discounted overnight.

[Razuvayev] So, a sensible political solution is needed?

[Kapitanets] It must be considered as a whole: military-political and economic. What is the Fleet, after all? It is a unified infrastructure that cannot be divided up. It was created by the scientific potential of the whole country. It has clear internal ties. It cannot be divided up without destroying these. For instance, the Black Sea Fleet consists of four categories of armed forces: submarines, surface ships, naval aviation, and shore troops. And, in addition, combat, special, and rear auxiliary forces. This entire military system can function with strict cooperation. If any link is excluded, it loses combat capability. This is not a question of mathematics: Arithmetical operations are not appropriate here. If things are divided in two the result could be that everyone ends up with nothing.

[Razuvayev] Nonetheless as a sovereign state Ukraine does have a sea border. It cannot do without a fleet.

[Kapitanets] Of course. Ukraine is entitled to form its own armed forces, including naval forces. Their task would be to maintain an operational regime, guard the economic border zone, and stop smuggling... That requires naval forces. The border guards have already given Ukraine 42 ships. We are also offering the Ukrainian Defense Ministry leadership some surface ships and aviation from the Black Sea Fleet with rear backup. But they are imposing a condition on us: either we halve the Fleet, or we hand it over in its entirety. However, we do

not have the right to disregard the interests of the entire Commonwealth and damage the Fleet's future.

[Razuvayev] Ivan Matveyevich, you are a member of the state commission set up on B. Yeltsin's orders and led by State Secretary S. Shakhray. Its task is to resolve contentious issues. A few days ago you returned from the Baltic. Is anyone planning to divide up the Baltic Fleet?

[Kapitanets] The Baltic republics, as you know, left the former Union. Since last year we have been holding talks about the withdrawal of the Armed Forces from their territory. They are not raising the question of dividing up the Fleet—and that is right. They are unable to maintain an Army, let alone a Navy. The realities are that our military will leave the Baltic states in time and the Navy will be based in Kaliningrad Oblast and on the Gulf of Finland. We are planning to reserve the right to ensure joint security in this region, including a convention on safe navigation in the Baltic. It is a question of time: It won't take long to withdraw the troops, but we must first think about housing and domestic conditions for people in their new areas.

[Razuvayev] People... When you analyze information about the Black Sea Fleet, about its being shared out, you get the impression that politicians are above all interested in ships, in having more of them, then it will be obvious what to do with them. But ships are not only lumps of steel, they are also people. Last year I went aboard a diesel submarine:, it had been off the building slips a year; it was new. I had difficulty climbing through all the sections and miraculously avoided bruises. One seaman showed me where he slept—on a torpedo! He was only able to stand up fully outside. This was an excursion for me. But a seaman, coming back from sea and going ashore, encounters social conditions that differ little from life aboard. And what if you live on another state's territory? It is evidently no coincidence that the crazy statement slips from their lips: I would swear an oath to the devil just to have a normal life!

[Kapitanets] I think that is a wrong position. What about Russian Navy traditions and military honor! The Fleet has always been renowned for and strong through its loyal service to the Fatherland. Our homeland is Russia, it created the Navy. Why should we surrender it to anyone, even for a sweeter cottage loaf?! Officers' honor should not be traded just to please politicians. The economic situation is grave now. It has also affected the military. For various reasons, including the favorable climatic conditions, the Black Sea Fleet has the most difficult housing situation—7,000 men without apartments. Incidentally, the new Russian Budget for Servicemen pays attention first to social programs and then to replenishing the military arsenal. We are also counting on the Russian Government to find a political solution to the Black Sea conflict with Ukraine that is not detrimental to Russian seamen.

[Razuvayev] Ivan Matveyevich, should the problem of the Black Sea Fleet be linked with the question of the future of Crimea?

[Kapitanets] I do not think so. The Fleet performs its operational-strategic tasks—previously and now—in the interests of Russia and all Commonwealth states, including Ukraine. Military and political aims should not be confused, since they may be approached from different directions [podkhod k nim mozhet nakhoditsya na raznykh napravleniyakh].

[Razuvayev] Preparations are being made to fly the old Russian flag of St. Andrew on naval ships. Does this mean that the Navy has become unequivocally Russian, or is it simply paying tribute to history?

[Kapitanets] The navy is Russian! A ship's flag symbolizes the state to which it belongs. After the breakup of the Union we have ended up under the flag of a country that no longer exists. That constitutes a most flagrant violation of international maritime law, whereby we cannot put into other states' ports. Our naval commander in chief has asked the Russian president to legalize the Fleet's status under the St. Andrew flag, and a decree to that effect has been drafted. [passage omitted on Navy's debt to Czar Peter I, general topics]

Most Republics Observe 74th Armed Forces Day

LD2102215492 Moscow TASS in English 2130 GMT 21 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow February 22 TASS—The majority of the former Soviet republics keep to tradition to celebrate the 74th anniversary of the creation of the Soviet Army, which has become the Day of the Armed Forces.

A ceremony in the Kremlin Palace on Friday [21 February] to celebrate the event has attracted officers, high ranking statesmen and representatives of the public. Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy and ex-President Mikhail Gorbachev attended the ceremony as well.

The garrison officers' house in Alma-Ata also had a grand meeting on Friday with participation of the Kazakh capital's public, officers, war and labor veterans, heads of ministries and departments.

Meeting participants said the Kazakh Supreme Soviet, president and government call for the preservation of the single Armed Forces at a difficult time the republic is living through. Remaining loyal to the enlistment oath and showing restraint, Kazakh servicemen honestly fulfill their duty.

Tajikistan celebrated the day as well with a grand meeting of officers and representatives of the local public. President Rakhman Nabiyev welcomed the meeting's participants, who spoke of the need to preserve

the single Armed Forces of the Commonwealth and ensure social protection of servicemen.

On Friday morning head of the Kaluga Regional Administration Alelsandr Deryagin met a group of war and labor veterans to discuss social protection of veterans and their needs. On the same day there was a grand meeting of the Armed Forces' Day at the regional theatre.

Other cities also marked the event.

'No Grounds' for Proceedings Against 13 Pilots

LD2102232292 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 21 Feb 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Vladimir Vasilyev, head of the Investigation Directorate of the Military Procuracy, stated today that there were no grounds to initiate criminal proceedings against 13 pilots who flew from Ukraine to Russia. According to the procurator, the pilots' act cannot be regarded as hijacking military equipment or desertion since the legal status of military sub-units deployed on the territory of independent states has not yet been regulated.

Ukraine President Leonid Kravchuk has called on Russia to elaborate the mechanism that would make it impossible to seize military equipment and hijack it to other republics.

Baltics

Mironov Says At Least 5 Years for Withdrawal

LD2102220592 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1900 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] It will take the Northwest Groups of Troops at least five years to move out of the Baltics. This was declared in an interview in newspaper RED STAR by General Valeriy Mironov, authorized by the Russian Federation to supervise the temporary presence of ground and naval forces in the Baltics, and their withdrawal from there. Gen. Mironov stressed that this concerned only ground troops, excluding the naval and anti-aircraft elements. He also spoke in favor of opening in the Baltics of a Russian Embassy or a general consulate to determine a legal basis for a military presence in the region.

Political & Economic

Gorbachev Says 'Greatest Danger Is Separatism'

AU2202185692 Hamburg ARD Television Network in German 2045 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Interview with Mikhail Gorbachev by Tadeusz Zuchowsky on the "Plus-Minus" program; place and date not given; Gorbachev answers in Russian with superimposed German translation—recorded]

[Text] [Zuchowsky] Mikhail Sergeyevich, the most important question for our listeners—how are you personally, you and your wife Raisa Maksimovna?

[Gorbachev] We are very well. We are familiarizing ourselves with our new tasks. This means that we will continue what we began in recent years, together with our partners in the West and in the East. In other words, I will continue my old work in a new role within the framework of the Gorbachev Foundation.

[Zuchowsky] Do you consider 27 December a day that marked your definite farewell to politics, or do you believe that a certain situation could cause you to return to politics?

[Gorbachev] I am not giving up politics. I said in talks with Mr. Bush and Mr. Genscher that I would not disappear. What do I mean by this? Does it mean that I will take the lead in regard to a certain political position? No. I do not see the need to participate in any kind of opposition because the reforms are essentially going the way that I had in mind. I will contribute my share in various ways. This means that I will basically support them. On the other hand, I will voice criticism, if necessary. It is a great experience for me, my most important concern, my life's work. I am not indifferent to the course of the reforms. Time will reflect the role I will be playing in this regard.

[Zuchowsky] Are you currently supporting Boris Yeltsin's policy?

[Gorbachev] You asked the question correctly. Yes, I am currently supporting Yeltsin's policy. I told him that as long as the Russian president and the Russian Government continue the democratic reforms, they can count on my support. If they pursue a different course, however, I will have to reconsider everything and redefine my position.

[Zuchowsky] Do you think that Yeltsin's decision to deregulate prices without a market economy organization in place was correct?

[Gorbachev] A transition to a market economy is not possible without free prices based on supply and demand. Granted, much should have been reorganized in this respect to prevent the development of inflation at the expense of consumers. I also know that this cannot be totally avoided, as the entire matter is a transition to a new economic system. I would like to add that the fact that the Yeltsin government has not done enough should not only be blamed on him but also on the former government, which wasted a lot of time. This applies to me as well. Most people support the reforms, however. They know they are necessary. The patience of the people is amazing, and deserves our highest respect.

[Zuchowsky] Is the emerging nationalism in the Commonwealth of Independent States dangerous? Is it possible that something comparable to Yugoslavia, for instance, is developing in the former Soviet Union?

[Gorbachev] The greatest danger is separatism. Let me explain. You are facing a man who advocates the peoples' right of self-determination and respect for minority rights, a man who suggested that centralism should be abolished and a federation of independent states established. Sovereignty does not mean separatism, or breaking away, or secession. Independence must be used to improve the organization of cooperation in new forms.

[Zuchowsky] You spoke of the patience that the people of Russia and the other states have shown in connection with the transition. The transition means very high unemployment, as we have seen in the former GDR. It also means poverty and perhaps even famine. Will Russia be able to bear this?

[Gorbachev] The republic governments must be inventive and act wisely. They have, however, no experience. Other countries' experiences do not help. Every country must find its own way. You also believed that your economic might would allow you to integrate East Germany very quickly. You thought that everything would be great. But it did not work, not even with you, the Germans, who are so strong and such good organizers and have large financial capabilities. A country like ours is having a much harder time. That is one thing.

The other thing is that the transition to the market economy is accompanied by considerable supply problems. I believe, however, that if we all make an effort and maintain discipline—which is particularly understandable for Germans—and if we organize an effective control of the production and distribution of foodstuffs, we can avoid famine. I do not think there will be famine in Russia.

[Zuchowsky] Mikhail Sergeyevich, how can the West help reconstruct Russia and the CIS republics? The West cannot feed 280 million people. That would be impossible.

[Gorbachev] The supply of foodstuffs and pharmaceuticals is most important. Financial aid ranks second. There is the danger that imports from the West will be stopped because we do not have hard currency. Russia urgently needs imports, however, to be able to continue production. That is the only way for us to supply our markets and maintain stability and security.

If we are to become a genuine partner in international trade, we urgently need a free, convertible currency. For this purpose, a stabilization fund for the ruble must be created in hard currency under the control and management of the International Monetary Fund. The Western industrial states that would primarily finance this fund must cooperate and resolve the problems together with Russians. This requires adequate supplies with hard currency, foodstuffs, and pharmaceuticals. That is absolutely necessary now. We also need market economy know-how for our managers.

[Zuchowsky] Mr. Gorbachev, let us look back at the time when you were president of the Soviet Union. You intended to reform socialism and the Communist Party. What do you think about it today? Is a reformed socialism possible, or is capitalism and the market economy system the only option?

[Gorbachev] Look, I think such comparisons and questions are very superficial. They only aim at the tip of the iceberg. After having overcome the cold war, we should stop asking such questions now. We must view matters more deeply. Take Germany or the EC. Even though it is a community, every country has its own character, tradition, and culture. No matter whether they are managers or workers, they have their own mentality in every country. I think that we should stop, once and for all, seeing capitalism and socialism as antagonistic concepts. Analyzing the present sort of capitalism in Germany, I see in it more socialism than in very many countries that call themselves socialist. If the Christian Democrats do not admit enough socialism, they are superseded by the Social Democrats. If the Social Democrats pursue too much socialism, the Christian Democrats return to power. This is how a political balance is guaranteed; this is the way political pluralism works.

The people must decide in free elections which form of democracy, parliament, power structure, parties, and programs should be implemented. That is the most important thing. Freedom, democracy, social justice, security for the people—is all this not right for all of us? I think it is. That is why at the threshold of the 21st century we must consider a new civilization, and no one should arrogantly believe his own civilization to be perfect.

There was no socialism in our country, just a Stalinist model, a utopia. This model only restrained the society and its economic, intellectual, and spiritual forces and initiatives. That was not socialism.

You are facing a man who believes in the socialist idea. I have thought about this considerably. Analyzing my own experience, I have come to the conclusion that we must strive for a single new civilization. By the way, the motto of the Gorbachev Foundation is—For a Single Civilization.

[Zuchowsky] Mikhail Sergeyevich, thank you very much for this interview.

Former USSR Trade Turnover Dropped in 1991

LD2102211292 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1444 GMT 21 Feb 92

[From the "Domestic Market" section]

[Text] Moscow—The overall foreign trade turnover of the USSR went down by 38 percent in the January-December, 1991, period compared to 1990, and reached R [ruble] 81.5 billion. In 1990 the figure was R131.5 bln [billion]. According to a press release issued by the Committee for Foreign Economic Ties with the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Russian Federation on February 21, in 1991 the volume of export in the former USSR was reduced by 28.4 percent and made up R45.5 bln. The share of Russia amounted to 80 percent or R34.8 bln. The structure of the export did not change. The export of fuel raw materials and timber went down 20-30 percent.

The import of the former Soviet Union went down 46.2 percent to reach R38 bln (in 1990 - R70.7 bln). The share of Russia was 59.3 percent or R22.6 bln. The major items on the import list were, as before, machines, equipment and means of transportation. They accounted for 38 percent of the entire import, i.e. R14.5 bln. The import of raw materials for the food and light industries, production technology goods and consumer goods went down, with the exception of meat and meat products, wheat, barley, rice and sugar.

The debt of the former USSR made up 63 bln. The debt of the developing countries to the USSR—some 70 bln. In line with the agreement of the CIS states on the division of debt and assets, Russia accounts for 61 percent. Payments on the main part of long- and medium-term credits amount to 11 bln. The issue of partial payments of the interest, which amounts to 5.6 bln, is being discussed. The Committee for Foreign Economic Ties was formed by a decree of the president of the Russian Federation issued on November 11, 1991. Its chairman is Dr of Economy Petr Aven, a Lithuanian who was formerly a leading scholar at the International Institute of Applied Systematic Analysis in Laxenburg, Austria.

Media

Newspapers Experiencing 'Crisis of Relations'

LD2202092692 Moscow TASS in English 1401 GMT 21 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Shmorgun]

[Text] Moscow February 21 TASS—One more crisis is looming over Russia and several other CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] states, namely, the crisis of relations between the authorities and the press.

The first signs that major publications are beginning to suffer from "economic smothering" have appeared in the Baltic States, where a "week without the press" was launched last Monday [17 February]. Practically no leading newspapers were available there for a whole week. The "smothering" virus quickly spread to Central Asian and European CIS states. Many newspapers of Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Ukraine and Belarus are about to be closed. At the end of this week, such dailies as "TRUD", "KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA" and the country's oldest newspaper—"PRAVDA"—which have a total ediction of 13 million copies, proved unable to come out regularly, every day.

The situation deteriorated gradually over the past few years as hundreds of new publications, oriented towards a market economy, appeared throughout the country. They get financial and material assistance from private Russian and foreign sponsors. This boosted sharply the price of newsprint.

Practically all the major newspapers say that the "main reason for the press crisis in the Commonwealth of Independent States is the dictate of monopolists, primarily paper manufacturers, transport and communication agencies". The "RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA" believes the Russian Government is "directly involved in this outrage". However, few are ready to admit that the press is now feeling on its own back what the coal workers, oil miners and metallurgists had warned against long ago: "Without first destroying the monopoly-dictatorship system, without adopting an anti-monopoly legislation, the government shouldn't have liberated the prices."

There were attempts to avert the brewing crisis by publishing warnings and addressing ultimatums to the government. Some papers threatened, for instance, "not to print for one day any news about the work of governments, parliaments and presidents". By resorting to such "radical and tough" measures, the leaders of the Confederation of Journalistic Unions hope to force the CIS leadership, particularly Russia, to grant additional subsidies to the press.

One of the suggested ways to stem the current crisis is to "immediately freeze a part of the former CPSU's funds and to spend them on the press so that it could survive. This would also contribute to the stabilisation of newsprint prices in 1992". However, this method can hardly cog in with the emerging market economy, in which a manufacturer can prove his vitality only by withstanding stiff competition for a place under the sun.

Such a struggle in the Russian press is inevitable, because the market today is full of various publications of approximately the same orientation, both weeklies and dailies. In the meantime, skyrocketing newspaper prices have forced many Russian readers to buy only one newspaper a day instead of the three or four they used to read over many past years. High newsprint prices have already brought down editions, on the size of which newspaper incomes largely depend.

TASS Carries Press Review for 22 Feb

LD2202062192 Moscow TASS in English 0607 GMT 22 Feb 92

["Press Review"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow February 22 TASS—Today's newspapers run a series of materials on the occasion of the Armed Forces Day which is marked on February 23. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR) carries an interview with Marshal of the Air Force Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander-in-chief of the Joint Armed Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), who expressed in particular his point of view on the structure of the CIS Armed Forces and on the system of command.

Touching upon the role of the Army in societal life, particularly the Army's stand concerning a number of explosive situations in some regions of the CIS, Shaposhnikov said "level-headedness, restraint, firmness and responsibility" are now essential for the Army. Herein, he believes, is "the main earnest of and a decisive condition for the worthy discharge by the Army and the Navy of their duty to the motherland".

In an interview with SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, Nikolay Stolyarov, assistant to the commander-in-chief and chairman of the committee for educational work with the personnel of the CIS Armed Forces, speaks about the Army "with pride and hope".

Examining prospects for the Army and the Navy, Stolyarov stresses in particular that "it is possible to enter an international collective security system only when there is, from the modern point of view, an efficient Army fitted out with high technology, which can be achieved only through joint efforts".

"To serve with dignity and honour" is how KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA determines the present-day status of servicemen who have experienced a lot of difficulties in recent months.

However, notwithstanding the welfare inadequacies and a number of other difficulties, particularly in those units that are being withdrawn from the territories of foreign countries, "the self- control of the military is worthy of the highest praise," the newspaper points out.

The press highlights the recently ended visit to Austria by President Nursultan Nazarbayev. PRAVDA carries an interview with Nazarbayev who emphasised that Kazakhstan and Austria are establishing diplomatic relations between them and are planning to implement a number of economic projects.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA runs an article about Nazarbayev as a person, describing his habits, hobbies and peculiarities of character.

The press closely follows the situation in the flashpoints of the CIS. NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA emphasises in particular that it is so far too early to speak in earnest about talks between Armenian and Azerbaijani representatives in Nagorno-Karabakh where active military actions are continued.

The newspaper refers to Friday's [21 February] meetings between representatives of the two sides as a "preliminary conference". Real talks, in the newspaper's opinion, are a matter of the future.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, on the contrary, expresses hope that the recent contacts may become a basis for serious talks to settle the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh.

International Affairs

Armenia-Azerbaijan Moscow Mediation Reviewed

Ovannisyan: Problem is 'Human Rights'

OW2102100992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1900 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Armenian Foreign Minister Raffi Ovannisyan told journalists following his meeting with his Azeri counterpart that it was only a working meeting, not talks. He also said that real talks were unthinkable without a delegation of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Raffi Ovannisyan said that there were no territorial or religious problems between Armenia and Azerbaijan. What does exist is the problem of human rights and of Karabakh's right to self-determination, he said. Azeri Foreign Minister Musa Sadykhov stated that the meeting was very important and noted that talks were impossible as long as bloodshed continued in Karabakh. He said that the two sides believed that cease-fire in Nagorno-Karabakh was a must for resolving the conflict. Asked about the danger of the conflict going beyond the borders of Karabakh, he said that this had already occurred. Musa Sadykhov also pointed out that he did not rule out the possibility of direct talks between representatives of Baku and Nagorno-Karabakh. The two foreign ministers commended Russia's mediation and expressed hope that it would continue.

Kazakhstan, Turkey Involved

OW2102110792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1900 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] An Interfax correspondent learned through diplomatic sources that at Thursday's [20 February] meeting in Moscow between Armenia and Azerbaijan on the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict the possibility of Kazakhstan joining as an additional mediator was considered. No agreement has been received from Alma-Ata as yet. Azerbaijan also requested that Turkey be added to the group of mediators. This received no objections from the Armenian side. However, in the course of the talks no agreement was reached on either proposition.

According to the sources the Azeri and Armenian Ministers of Foreign Affairs showed considerable restraint in the talks, however, their positions on a key question - the status of Nagorno-Karabakh - remained irreconcilable. The Azeris insist that the region is an integral part of their country, the Armenians proposed granting the territory unusually broad rights, putting it on the level of an independent state. As a result of the irreconcilability on this matter, the initial version of the communique came out without the words "Nagorno-Karabakh". The diplomatic sources explain this saying that the Presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia had telephoned their respective Foreign Ministers on the eve of the talks to impress the importance of coming to an agreement on the matter. Experts say that the communique signed in Moscow does not contain formal legal obligations of the parties, but only their wish and promise to "present a number of choices to their presidents and parliaments". Therefore the communique must not be considered an effective document able to guarantee a cease fire in Nagorno-Karabakh.

The diplomatic sources say that the Russian delegation had prepared a number of proposals to resolve the conflict but instead acted as an observer and refrained from presenting its proposals.

Azerbaijan's Sadykhov on Talks

OW2102161892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1308 GMT 21 Feb 92

[From the 21 February "Diplomatic Panorama"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Members of the Azeri delegation who attended yesterday's talks with Armenia in Moscow held a news conference Friday [21 February] at the Azeri mission in Moscow. Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Gusaynaga Sadykhov dwelled upon proposals, advanced yesterday in Moscow by CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] Commander in Chief Shaposhnikov and the Russian president's adviser Starovoytova, concerning the sending of CIS peacemaking forces that could be sent to Nagorno-Karabakh.

Azerbaijan considers such statements as "an attempt to derail the nascent negotiating process with Armenia and the resultant positive changes," Sadykhov said. The proposals, he added, are aimed not at solving interethnic conflicts but at fomenting them.

According to Sadykhov, the state of Azerbaijan, being committed to international law, has respected and will continue to respect human rights, including the rights of ethnic minorities. The foreign minister restated his republic's position, stressing that "the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh was instigated by certain extremist circles of the Armenian Republic".

Nevertheless, he argued for a peaceful, negotiated solution to the Karabakh conflict through talks between the Azeri and Armenian communities of Nagorno-Karabakh. "Attempts to solve the problem by military force serve neither Azerbaijani, nor Armenian interests". He praised his meeting with his Armenian counterpart in Moscow mediated by the Russian Foreign Ministry. However, according to Sadykhov, the meeting did not amount to talks proper but was "a prelude" to such talks. A number of such meetings may be required to get the negotiations started.

A tripartite working group made up of representatives of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia will deal with the scope and agenda of the prospective negotiations. The Azeri minister, although paying tribute to the mediatory role played by the Foreign Ministry of Russia, did not rule out a possible mediation by Turkey or Iran. The working group was examining this option, he said.

Rasim Musabekov, an aide of the Azeri president, stressed at the news conference that Azerbaijan did not rule out the use of peace-making forces in an effort to solve the Karabakh conflict. "But in keeping with international practice such forces may only be used at a direct invitation by the Government of Azerbaijan provided military operations ceased in the region and all armed groups were disarmed."

Dwelling in considerable detail on a statement by Marshal Shaposhnikov, he said, in particular, that Azerbaijan did not oppose the presence of the strategic forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States in its territory. "With regard to the general-purpose armed forces, they should be either withdrawn from Azerbaijan or transferred under the republic's jurisdiction," he said.

'Good Foundation' Laid

MK2202134992 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Feb 92 p 1

[Report by Aydyn Mekhtiyev under the general heading: "Nagorno-Karabakh: Preliminary Conference for Time Being, Real Talks Later"]

[Excerpt] At the request of NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's correspondent, Azerbaijan Foreign Minister Musa Sadykhov, head of the Azerbaijan delegation at the [21 February Moscow] talks [on Nagorno-Karabakh], commented on the four-point communique signed. "It was the first meeting in four years of conflict at the level of the heads of the two republics' foreign policy departments with Russian involvement," Sadykhov said, "Today we laid a good foundation for a regular negotiating process." In Sadykhov's opinion, the "Azerbaijani side did not allow the republic's sovereignty to be violated on any of the four points." An important element, the minister added, is the fact that the Karabakh conflict is Azerbaijan's internal affair and will be resolved between the republic's leadership and the Armenian community in Karabakh. At the same time, Sadykhov said that the "signing of the communique is not yet a guarantee that the neighboring republic will cease to interfere in the conflict."

When asked by NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's correspondent how feasible the prospect is of bringing CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] or UN peacekeeping forces into the conflict zone, the Azerbaijan foreign minister said: "This is not feasible if only because the former Soviet Army has so discredited itself following the incursion into Baku in January 1990 that any proposal to bring troops in from outside, whatever good motives are behind it, would meet with opposition from the Azerbaijan population." "Does the signed document satisfy the Azerbaijan delegation entirely?" NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's correspondent put that question to Nadzhaf Nadzhafov, member of the National Council, who took part in the talks as the Azerbaijan opposition's representative. "We were surprised," Nadzhafov stressed, "that our quite logical suggestion that the document designate the conflict region as 'Nagorno-Karabakh, Azerbaijan Republic' elicited major objections from the Armenian side. In order to salvage the talks, we accepted a somewhat different wording and enshrined in the document 'Karabakh conflict zone'—and this was a major concession on our part." [Passage omitted]

NATO Secretary General Arrives in Moscow

LD2302200792 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1832 GMT 23 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow, 23 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner arrived in Moscow today for a two-day working visit at the invitation of the Russian Government. He arrived in the Russian capital from Kiev, where he met Ukrainian leaders.

On 24 February Manfred Woerner is scheduled to hold talks with Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy; Gennadiy Burbulis, first deputy prime minister; Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev; and Air Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the joint Armed Forces of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States]. The guest will also visit St. Daniel's monastery.

During his talks with the Russian leadership the NATO secretary general is expected to discuss a wide range of military-political questions connected with processes taking place within the CIS. The future of the former USSR's army and the influence the changes it is undergoing will have on the strategic alignment of forces in the world, as well as the implementation of international agreements on conventional and nuclear armaments, will be discussed.

Kozyrev Not To Seek NATO Entry

OW2402140392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1332 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] After his meeting with Manfred Woerner in Moscow on Monday [24 February], the Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said Russia would not press for NATO membership. He observed that "effective mechanisms of international cooperation seem now to be more important than breathtaking ideas like Russia's

quick incorporation into NATO." The minister suggested it was time "to make a step from the verbal acknowledgement of conceptual closeness to practical action."

Commenting at IF's [INTERFAX] request on his meeting with Manfred Woerner, A. Kozyrev said it had proceeded in "an essentially new atmosphere, with democratic and independent Russia and NATO no longer regarding each other as potential enemies." According to Kozyrev, Russia and NATO, "in denouncing any forms of violence, share the basic values that make up a new platform for a further narrowing of differences that may someday result in the establishment of allied relations."

The minister said the NATO leader and he had discussed disarmament-related issues as well as those connected with the holding in Brussels on March 10 of a session of the Council of North Atlantic Cooperation, at which all CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] countries, including Russia, would be granted council membership. According to Kozyrev, the Brussels session "may become a turning point marking a shift from general pronouncements to practical work in relationships between Russia and NATO"—an assessment which M. Woerner eagerly endorsed.

Talks With Moscow Patriarch

OW2402141892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1332 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner has said the spread of Islamic fundamentalism and its increasingly strong influence on the Central Asian republics of the former Soviet Union do not meet the interests of the North Atlantic bloc. He made a statement to that effect during his meeting with Aleksey II, the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, in Moscow on Monday [24 February].

Woerner indicated that the "Turkish scenario" would meet the West's interests more—and not only because Turkey is a NATO country. In his view, Iran with its peculiar foreign policy does not set any "inspiring" example to follow.

Patriarch Aleksey observed that mutual understanding and dialogue between the Orthodox Church and the Muslim world were a major stabilizing factor for both the Middle East and the Commonwealth of Independent States. He said the Muslim leaders of the former USSR, with whom he maintained friendly relations, shared his view that preventing religious or inter-ethnic strife needed concerted efforts.

Mr. Woerner said that his meeting with the Russian Partiarch should facilitate the forthcoming Moscow talks on disarmament and the establishment of a new system of security throughout the Euroatlantic region.

Khasbulatov Meets Council of Europe's Lalumiere

LD2102202592 Moscow TASS in English 1734 GMT 20 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sergey Batyrev, Viktor Khrekov]

[Text] Strasbourg February 20 TASS— Catherine Lalumiere, secretary-general of the Council of Europe, told ITAR-TASS shortly before meeting the Russian parliament speaker that she was worried over the situation in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The Council of Europe, headquartered in Strasbourg, is the oldest inter-government consultative organisation that unites 26 European countries. It plays an important role in fostering their cooperation in humanitarian, legal and other fields.

"It was an interesting and useful conversation," Ruslan Khasbulatov told journalists immediately after the talks. "I was primarily interested in various aspects of the activities of the Council of Europe. The Russian parliament and its speaker were for the first time officially invited to this organisation, in which Russia has a status of 'specially invited'. We show great interest in the activities of the Council of Europe."

The secretary-general asked many questions. They primarily concerned the situation in Russia, the activity of its parliament, prospects for the development of the republics of the former Soviet Union. Khasbulatov said he tried to answer all those questions.

"Our Russian democracy is young," the speaker continued. "Therefore we are highly interested in studying the experience of supreme legislative bodies in European countries. On the other side, I cannot help but notice that the West sometimes receives distorted information on the situation in our country.

"Our experts, who often have a vague idea of what is taking place, can be partly blamed for that. So I used this opportunity to provide first-hand information."

Then Khasbulatov acknowledged that the situation was difficult but did not warrant such descriptions as "tragedy" and "drama". The country has enough resources to overcome difficulties and pursue deep-going reforms in the field of politics, the economy, and human rights, Khasbulatov stressed.

"Russia simply needs to be admitted into the Council of Europe," he said in conclusion. "I think that Russia needs the Council as much as it needs Russia."

Addresses European Parliament

LD2102190692 Moscow TASS in English 1802 GMT 21 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Sergey Batyrev and Viktor Khrekov]

[Text] Strasbourg February 21 TASS—Chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Ruslan Khasbulatov expressed the Russian parliament's readiness to make "the most active and initiative contribution" in cooperation with European parliamentarians to build a new Europe with East European democracies participating.

Speaking at a conference of parliament heads from 35 European states that opened here today, Khasbulatov said "the Russian parliament is ready for constructive discussion of any proposals from its European colleagues."

Describing the situation in the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS], Khasbulatov noted, in addition to major positive changes, new difficulties exist caused by the deformed development of the economy, interethnic conflicts and acute social problems.

"The process of joining the market economy is especially painful in our state. The international communities' formulae of economic improvement are not always and not completely acceptable for our country," he stressed.

In the opinion of the Russian Parliament leader, the Russian Supreme Soviet carries the responsibility for mistakes that painfully affect great numbers of the population.

"This is the reason why the Russian Parliament sharply criticizes the activities of the government, and demands the correction of some of its steps. At the same time, the parliament supports the government at critical moments," said Khasbulatov.

He noted the legislative and executive authorities of the republic are unanimous as far as the strategic course towards democratic transformations in free Russia is concerned.

In Khasbulatov's opinion, the current key direction of European cooperation is mutual interest and support in the consolidation of stability and security, further development of democracy, human rights and freedoms.

"It is important that Europeans together elaborate the instruments and approaches to contribute to confederative unification, and stabilize the non-confrontation situation," he said.

The Russian Parliament leader voiced an opinion that the conceptual breakthrough in the approaches towards disarmament resulting from the recent initiatives of Yeltsin and Bush is "a rather favourable base for consistent steps towards lowering the risk of military confrontation and raising the security of European peoples."

Speaking of the economic situation in the CIS republics, Ruslan Khasbulatov called for the preservation of the single economic space and positive experience accumulated over decades in stable economic relations between republics of the former Soviet Union.

"Creating a parliamentary assembly of the CIS member states, a collective body for possible coordination of the activities of CIS parliaments, is now being considered," Khasbulatov stressed.

The Russian parliament leader also called for Russia to join the Council of Europe as a fully-fledged member.

"In the person of Russia, the Council of Europe will have an active and reliable partner, who shares great humanist principles accumulated by world civilizations over centuries," Khasbulatov noted.

Talks With Turkey's Cindoruk

LD2202190492 Moscow TASS in English 1535 GMT 22 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sergey Batyrev and Viktor Khrekov]

[Text] Strasbourg February 22 TASS—Chairman of the Russian parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov had a meeting today with Husamettin Cindoruk, chairman of the Great National Assembly of Turkey, within the framework of a conference of the heads of parliament from 35 countries, held at the Council of Europe here.

They discussed problems connected with the forthcoming visit of Khasbulatov to Turkey. Special attention was devoted to a further development of economic, political and cultural cooperation between the two countries. Khasbulatov and Husamettin Cindoruk stressed the importance of the development of bilateral interparliamentary relations.

Yeltsin Meets With Kuwaiti Finance Minister

LD2102210392 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1748 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Moscow, 21 Feb (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Minister of Finance Nasir Abdallah al-Ridan today delivered a message from the Amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, to Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

During his meeting with President Yeltsin at the Kremlin today, Minister al-Ridan presented the Russian president with a momento on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Islamic Conference Organization.

At the beginning of the meeting Yeltsin welcomed Minister al-Ridan and the accompanying delegation and expressed his pleasure at the start of direct dialogues between Kuwait and Russia.

He affirmed that the dialogue does not start from scratch, pointing out that there was a big asset of relations that linked Kuwait and the former USSR. He expressed confidence that the past achievements would be maintained and that new elements would be added to the relations between the two countries.

Yeltsin reiterated his country's interest in the development of relations with Kuwait on the basis of equality and mutual respect.

On his part, Minister al-Ridan conveyed to President Yeltsin the greetings of the Amir of Kuwait and said that the message he brought with him contained a desire for bolstering cooperation between Kuwait and Russia.

In an answer to a question by KUNA, President Yeltsin expressed his conviction of the existence of good prospects for developing relations between Russia and Kuwait, pointing out that the framework for developing these relations forms a subject for discussion with the visiting Kuwaiti delegation.

In his statement to KUNA, Minister al-Ridan assessed the results of his discussions with President Yeltsin as being "valuable, during which Kuwaiti and Russian points of view coincided".

Al-Ridan expressed his conviction that his, and the accompanying delegation's, visit "comes as a continuation to what had been discussed during the visit of His Highness the Amir in November last, and his meeting with President Yeltsin".

He said "that His Highness promised to send a high-level delegation to visit Russia to discuss the different details which the discussion of the leaders of the two countries touched on at that time."

He added: "I am honored today by meeting President Boris Yeltsin, and conveyed to him the greetings of His Highness the Amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, may God preserve him, and delivered to him a written message from His Highness the Amir which includes issues of bilateral relations between the state of Kuwait and the Russian Federation."

Minister al-Ridan said that his visit aims to develop economic, scientific, and technical relations between the two countries and to promote its level to that of the political relations, pointing out that Russia remains an important and great country with permanent membership in the UN Security Council. He explained that expanding the scope of relations between the two countries comes through the search for investment opportunities and partnership in some joint ventures, as well as the search for some scientists and specialists in the various peaceful fields, so as to create the opportunity for them to work at Kuwaiti scientific institutions and establishments, such as the University of Kuwait, the Scientific Research Institute, and the Kuwaiti Establishment for Scientific Progress, to enable them to benefit from this important expertise.

Of his visit to a number of CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] countries, al-Ridan said they were quick and short, but useful visits, and added: "We have met all the officials concerned in this field that we are talking about, and met the presidents of these republics and delivered to them messages from His Highness the Amir.

'Upsetting' Barents Sea Incident Reviewed

LD2202092992 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1810 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Although relations between Russia and the United States have been getting better, an upsetting and dangerous incident has occurred. Nuclear-powered submarines have collided off Russia's shores. Here is a commentary by Vladislav Kozyakov:

[Kozyakov] In the past such an occurrence would have either been fully concealed from the public or have been used as a pretext for a verbal duel and tension. However, today neither Moscow nor Washington have gone this way. The visiting secretary of state, James Baker, told President Boris Yeltsin what had happened and a frank discussion of the incident took place.

This shows a new level of relations between Russia and the United States, relations marked with growing trust and partnership. And yet, just for the sake of such good relations both countries should apparently analyze what happened properly. After all, two nuclear- capable submarines collided. Fortunately no one was hurt, nor the submarines were significantly damaged, but there might have been harsh consequences.

Now the military of both countries are investigating the incident to clarify various technical details to avoid the repetition of anything similar to what occurred. But besides technicalities, other aspects deserve attention, for instance legal ones. As was declared in Russia's parliament on Thursday [20 February], Moscow is sending an official protest to the United States in view of the intrusion by the American submarine Baton Rouge in a well-established training ground in Russian territorial waters.

However, Washington argues that the U.S. submarine did not do anything wrong. It refers for one to the United States' recognition of a 12-mile zone of the territorial waters, whereas the incident occurred two miles farther from the shore. (?Hence) the conclusion that both countries should clear up this aspect of the maritime law and agree on a common and mutually acceptable understanding of their commitments to avoid differences like these.

There are other questions too. For instance, people—not only in this country but also in the United States—wonder why with the current proper bilateral ties the Pentagon considered it necessary to send its nuclear-powered submarines on patrol near Russia's shores. The ASSOCIATED PRESS believes that if the former Soviet Union is no longer a threat to U.S. security, why the American submarines still (?patrol) its coastline? The retired submarine captain, (James Bush), asks a similar

question: Why are we doing this kind of operation now? The "cold war" is supposed to be over, Mr. (Bush) remarked.

Pentagon chiefs allege that it is an old U.S. practice to dispatch naval vessels anywhere, a practice that dates back to the birth of the United States. And now they claim this is essential for U.S. security. For this reason American naval ships will further stay off Russia's shores. However, now these should better take a fresh look at the world for the incident involved nuclear-powered submarines rather than [word indistinct]. Is there any need to put nations at risk? All the more so, Russian submarines, as American officials themselves admit, do not patrol off U.S. shores.

Collision Called 'Misunderstanding'

LD2202090692 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Commentary Igor Ambrosov]

[Text] As you already know, on 11 February there was a mix-up in the Barents Sea. Two nuclear submarines collided in Russian territorial waters. What is surprising is not the fact that they collided, although at first glance it seems strange that vessels fitted with the latest in navigational equipment cannot see each other close up. But this is the surprising thing: One of the subs was American, and it was not supposed to be in another state's territorial waters.

The mass media have been debating this amazing incident for several days now. The Russian parliament has even heard a report from Air Force Marshal Shaposhnikov. Despite the fact that the deputies were given an in-depth picture of what happened, it is difficult to avoid the impression that, nonetheless, something is missing amid all the hullabaloo. For our commentary, at the microphone is Igor Ambrosov:

[Ambrosov] It is absolutely clear that it is political conclusions which are missing. To try to draw these conclusions as correctly as possible, let us look at the situation around the subs' collision from various vantage points.

In a navigational sense, the collision can be seen as just an annoying misunderstanding. In fact, both vessels were in what is called a hydroacoustic shadow; neither could see or sense the other with their instruments.

From the viewpoint of international law, the collision has revealed differences in the Russian and American interpretations of Russian territorial waters. According to international law, the limits of our territorial waters are determined by us alone. If our law—or rather the USSR Law on the State Border—says the border is in a particular place, then that is where it is. No one can take seriously any claims by the Americans that the border should be somewhere else. In any event, the Americans do not seem to be propounding their line with particular enthusiasm.

Here we come to the third viewpoint, that of strategic reconnaissance. There was once a story about a Soviet submarine sneaking almost all the way up to New York and for a long time hiding on the seabed, virtually underneath the Statue of Liberty. When the Americans found out about it, they were completely astonished. Whether it is true or not is unimportant. What is important is that military and technical reconnaissance has been and is being conducted by the militaries of all states.

From the political viewpoint, the way out of the situation could be extremely instructive—especially for diplomats. The submarine incident shows that the United States remains true to Ronald Reagan's favorite principle: Trust but verify. Our proclamations of eternal love are one thing, of course, but not everyone is convinced by them. In fact, constant declarations that Russia has no claims against anyone and has turned its sights away can only cause suspicion among our partners abroad. Good grief! They would feel much more at ease if we said: Yes, Russia does have global geopolitical interests and plans to uphold them, if necessary through the use of submarines. The Americans say this all the time, and we do not consider them less democratic or less civilized because of it.

Regarding the collision mix-up—what about it? Remember how Carlson who lived on the roof reacted to such happenings. He had a wonderful phrase: A mere trifle! Nothing unusual! [reference to catchphrase of hero in "Carlson Who Lived on the Roof," a Russian childrens' favorite by Swedish writer Astrid Lindgren]

Yeltsin Adviser on Settlement of Conflicts

LD2002190792 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1630 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Who should one protect oneself from, and who needs to be helped? Galina Starovoytova, people's deputy of the Russian Federation, held a news conference today. A small extract from her speech gives a partial answer to this question.

[Begin Starovoytova recording] Two principles exist in international practice in settling conflicts of this type. Both principles are recorded in international legal documents, but glaringly contradict one another today. I have in mind the principle of the sovereignty of states and the integrity and stability of existing borders, especially in the developing post-war Europe. This principle has been recorded in many agreements, including the documents of the Yalta conference and also in the documents of the Helsinki agreement on cooperation and security in Europe, which was held in 1975. This year we are preparing for Helsinki-2. A number of points in the Helsinki Final Act were amended following the recent Paris and Vienna meetings because, in point of

fact, we no longer have in Europe the stability of the borders that we had in 1945 or in 1948. Following the unification of the two Germanys and the secession of first the Baltic and then other states from the former Union, the borders have changed.

The other principle is that of the right of peoples to self-determination. This is also recorded in most important international legal documents, first and foremost in the international declarations on civil and political rights, and also in the declaration on cultural and economic rights, which were adopted by the United Nations in 1966. The first article of these two documents, which were signed by our country and other important, major countries in the world, speaks about the right of peoples to self-determination—I emphasize peoples, not nations, as it is sometimes referred to in our country, following the traditions of Lenin.

What does this mean in political terms? Which principle is more important, and which one should we give priority to today? We will be unable to solve in a radical and just way the problems of Nagorno-Karabakh, South Ossetia, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia and the Serbian enclaves in Croatia—Krajina and others—Ulster, East Jerusalem, or other hotspots on the planet until we receive an answer to this question: Which of the principles takes priority?

In my point of view—and perhaps this is open to argument—we should give priority to the right of peoples to self-determination as the most democratic principle. It is people who draw boundaries in pencil on a map. They do so for the good of society, for the good of the states which are thus created. Moreover, a nation—a people—is the natural basis of civilian society. If we argue about what is more important, a civilian society or a state, I think we should give priority to society. The state is merely a mechanism for serving public needs. The classical scholars of Marxism have already spoken about this in their own inimitable way. Engels said that the state is merely the executive power of the ruling class. The state is prisons, the courts, the police, and the law enforcement bodies, and they serve society. The objectives of society are the priority ones.

Such elements of a civilian society as cultural continuity, the plenitude of horizontal links, ethnic identity, and the highly regulating role of public opinion for social forms of behavior are typical simultaneously for nations and for civilian society. Therefore, I would give priority to the right to self-determination. I think that for us—and in this instance by us I mean the world community—what is urgent today is to lead this process to some kind of constitutional, legal channel. It is necessary to determine the principles that restrict the right to self-determination in order that we may avoid general chaos and the redrawing of borders. I would propose certain principles for this. To be brief, these would be the historic affiliation of this or that territory to this or that ethnic group, which is always relative and disputable.

The second criterion is the contemporary ethnic majority on a given territory. The third, most important criteria is the will of the whole population, including the ethnic majority and the ethnic minority—a will that is reflected by way of a referendum and by a qualified majority of votes.

If all these three criteria coincide at one time, in one place, and on one territory, as democrats we cannot ignore this will of the peoples. So long as we ignore the will of the peoples, there will be bloody wars such as the world sees today in Nagorno-Karabakh. I stress that this is a world problem and not just the states of the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS], because the scale of hostilities there today reaches far beyond the framework of a simple interethnic conflict or local, isolated clashes. This is a full- scale, regional war, with every probability of the states of the neighboring and other regions being drawn into it. The Caucasus is a very complex mixture of ethnic cultures, religions, and historic states, and the conflict is not of a limited or local nature.

Returning to the problems of the CIS, I think that the situation in the Transcaucasus today is to a considerable extent litmus paper. Will the heads of state react to this situation? Will they become involved in it? Will they continue the Zheleznovodsk process? Will international forces of deterrence similar to the Blue Helmets of the United Nations be created within the framework of the Commonwealth, on the basis of professional, contractual armed forces, or will this not be done and will we continue to look on indifferently as tens and hundreds of peaceful inhabitants of the Caucasus are killed? Perhaps the future of the CIS also depends on an answer to this question today. If the CIS is not capable of defending the rights of peoples and the rights of national minorities, then such a formation [obrazivaniye] will very soon prove to be unnecessary to its members. They may abandon it. [end recording]

Sees CIS as 'Transitional'

MK2102130092 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Feb 92 p 2

[Viktor Koshkin report: "Forecast: Commonwealth of Independent States Must Avoid Sharing USSR's Fate, President Yeltsin's Adviser, Galina Starovoytova, Believes"]

[Text] Whether this proves possible or not depends in many respects on whether the Commonwealth manages to deal with the conflicts in the Transcaucasus. In this respect Galina Starovoytova's viewpoint is quite justified. She said at a news conference that it is impossible to avoid continuing the Zheleznovodsk process. The meeting at the Russian Foreign Ministry involving representatives of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Kazakhstan demonstrates the intention not to abandon the effort halfway.

On the whole Galina Starovoytova regards the Commonwealth of Independent States as a transitional structure. En route from an empire to a true commonwealth. To use Ukrainian parliamentary deputy Yuriy Shcherbak's figurative expression—and he is someone Starovoytova loves to quote—the CIS is reminiscent of a friendly agreement among people who have just escaped from jail, but are still fettered together by one chain.

Galina Starovoytova said that it was quite likely that a harder core could form within the Commonwealth, as NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA has already said, stressing that this development of events fits in fairly well with the plan for the Commonwealth to which Russian politicians cleave. It looks roughly as follows: The states within the Commonwealth may have varying degrees of involvement in it. That is, some will have closer links among themselves and, correspondingly, within the Commonwealth, while others will have only the range of ties which they think will benefit their national interests.

In this respect the tranquillity with which the Russian president's adviser views the increase in relations between the former Central Asian republics and the rest of the Islamic world is understandable. Galina Starovoytova thinks it quite natural for them to try to lead a common life with their coreligionists now that the borders of the former USSR have become more open.

As for Russian problems, the president's adviser acknowledges the scenario of territories with a high degree of self-management to be the prevailing idea behind the new Russian state system. In her opinion, world experience has proved quite convincingly that small states resolve their economic problems highly effectively. This could mean a historic compromise for Russia, combining the principles of a new Constitution with a new federative treaty.

The adoption of a new, relatively democratic Constitution even for the autonomous formations at the 11th Congress of Russian People's Deputies seems problematic to Starovoytova. Primarily because of the Congress' composition. Hence she concludes that it would be logical for the deputies to face reelection before the end of their terms.

While acknowledging that parts of Russia are fully entitled to self-determination, Galina Starovoytova denies the Leninist priority of nations on this question, giving preference to the rights of the peoples who inhabit a particular historical territory. This approach totally justifies the optimism with which the president's adviser regards the situation in Tataria, where, according to her figures, only 19 percent of the population want total sovereignty. On the whole the principles of contemporary international politics enshrine a profound internal conflict, in Starovoytova's opinion. On the one hand, the principle of state sovereignty and the inviolability of borders is universally recognized, as, on the other hand, is the peoples' right to self-determination, which is causing borders in modern Europe and elsewhere to change before our very eyes.

Gaydar Trip to Spain 'Prologue' for Yeltsin

PM2102113592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Feb 92 Morning Edition p 4

[Report by Vladimir Vernikov and Pavel Golub: "Yegor Gaydar Brings Half a Billion 'Spanish' Dollars From Madrid"]

[Text] The "unfreezing" of a major loan for Russia, and agreements on new avenues in Russo-Spanish political and economic cooperation were the main results of Russian Vice Premier Yegor Gaydar's visit to Spain, which ended Tuesday [18 February].

The talks mainly discussed recognition of Russia as the successor to the USSR and the reformulation of a number of previous agreements in the economic sphere which were signed with the Soviet Union, so that they apply to the Russian Federation. First and foremost, this applies to the $1.5-billion loan granted to the USSR during M. Gorbachev's visit to Spain in October 1990 by a consortium of Spanish banks.

Half of this loan—$750 million—is earmarked for food purchases in Spain, while the other half is earmarked for contracts covering investment in technology. So far we have "used up" only $250 million. Another $500 million will clearly be obtained in the next few months in the form of food and prime necessities. The rest, we hope, will be used to purchase equipment for the processing of agricultural produce and conversion of the military industry.

The Russian vice premier met with Spanish industrialists and representatives of business circles. These meetings resulted in specific agreements on economic cooperation. A number of Spanish construction firms, for instance, have shown interest in participating in the implementation of plans to build housing for servicemen withdrawn to Russia from East Europe and from certain CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] states.

"I think," Yegor Gaydar said at a joint news conference with Jose Claudio Aranzadi, Spanish minister of industry, commerce, and tourism, "that the decision to reformulate the credit agreement between Spain and the Soviet Union to apply to the Russian Federation will make it possible to maintain and strengthen the trade links established between them in the late eighties. As for our investment cooperation, we reached agreement on those spheres which will be under the maximum patronage of the Spanish and Russian Governments. First and foremost, this applies to investment in the energy sector of the Russian economy, in completing work on projects which have had to be halted in Russia owing to a lack of foreign exchange and financial resources, and in enterprises processing agricultural produce.

The success of Ye. Gaydar's Madrid talks was a kind of prologue to Russian President B. Yeltsin's visit to Spain

planned for this summer. During the visit a treaty may be signed between Russia and Spain. Work on the treaty, as discussions with Spanish and Russian representatives showed, is nearing completion.

Economic Aspects of CSFR Talks Reviewed

PM2102120792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Feb 92 Morning Edition p 4

[Report by Sergey Mushkaterov: "Debts Paid and Unpaid. Results of CSFR Premier's Visit to Moscow"]

[Text] CSFR Premier Marian Calfa arrived in Moscow [18 February] bearing a gift. The plane carrying the Czechoslovak delegation brought with it four tonnes of food aid from the Czechoslovak Government. The aid was handed over to the Russian Red Cross.

Despite the briefness of the visit, the Czechoslovak premier managed to hold talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin and First Vice Premier Gennadiy Burbulis, and in the evening spoke to journalists about the results of the visit.

Judging by everything, the greatest satisfaction for both sides came from the initialing by the foreign ministers of the text of the Treaty on Friendly Relations and Cooperation between Russia and the CSFR. This document contains no points of dispute. In particular, it makes an honest assessment of the events of 1968. The treaty will most probably be signed during CSFR President V. Havel's visit to Russia. It has been learned from diplomatic circles that this official visit will probably take place in mid-March.

The talks on trade and economic cooperation were more difficult. Czechoslovakia is concerned about the resolution of the former USSR's $4.5-billion debt problem. First and foremost, this applies to unpaid bills for exports of products by Czechoslovak enterprises in 1991. The sides were unable to solve this problem. They merely agreed that specific proposals on this score would be submitted by a working group within two weeks. M. Calfa also proposed that part of the basic debt should be paid off by means of Czechoslovak participation in privatization on Russian territory. B. Yeltsin called this an interesting idea, but asked for more detailed information.

The sides discussed the "oil" issue. Czechoslovakia requested that the 7.5 million tonnes of oil which, by agreement, it is supposed to receive in 1992, be supplied by Russia in the first half of the year. In response, the Russian side complained that in January alone oil extraction fell 15 percent. Nonetheless, it promised to arrange for the oil to be supplied in the first nine months of the year.

The sides probably failed to find common ground on only one problem. This was the settlement of property and financial issues relating to the long presence of Soviet troops on Czechoslovak territory. The CSFR estimated the total damage done to it at several billion korunas. This matter was discussed during M. Calfa's meeting with G. Burbulis, and during separate talks between the chairman of the CSFR federal committee for environmental protection and the deputy chairman of the economic commission for troop withdrawal. The Czechoslovak side proposed, in particular, to auction off all property remaining behind after the Soviet troop withdrawal and to use the funds raised to compensate for the economic and environmental damage. However, judging by everything, the Russian side's reaction to this was cool.

'Doubts' Expressed Over 'Blue Helmets' in SFRY

OW2402113292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1052 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] After the UN Security Council invited Russia to send a battalion of troops to Yugoslavia as part of the international peacekeeping force, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Yuriy Deryabin told IF [INTERFAX] that the ministry welcomed the Security Council resolution to send "blue helmets" to Yugoslavia and supported the idea of Russian servicemen's involvement in the peacekeeping force, although "our military and parliamentarians are still having doubts about the plan."

Chinese Border Talks Ease 'Military Tension'

OW2102224092 Moscow Radio Moscow in Mandarin 1000 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Commentary by station commentator Kondratyev from the "Current Events and Commentary" program—read by announcer]

[Text] The current meeting of the Standing Committee of National People's Congress of China in Beijing will discuss and ratify the Agreement on the Eastern Section of the Sino-Russian Border. The Russian parliament ratified the agreement before the Chinese meeting was held. Following is a commentary by station commentator Kondratyev on the normalization of the Russian-Chinese border situation:

The agreement on the eastern section of the Sino-USSR border was signed in Moscow last May. A number of discussions were held and work on delimiting the boundary was completed before the signing of the agreement. The boundary was delimited mainly by natural boundaries, such as rivers. Here it is not necessary to discuss the agreement in detail. I only want to emphasize the importance of the normalization of the Russian-Sino border situation.

Before the normalization of the relations between the former USSR and China in 1989, the danger of military conflicts along the border posed a threat not only to the two countries but also to the entire world. This is because (?both countries) possess nuclear weapons. This being

true, following the delimitation of the boundary, the two countries began talks on the mutual reduction of forces and on promoting trust in the border areas.

Today, it can be stated satisfactorily that the five rounds of talks have yielded some results: The number of ground troops and air force units in the border areas have gradually become smaller. After discussion, both sides have decided that the reduction of strategic rocket units, antiaircraft units, and naval forces will be included in the future general agreement on relaxing tensions in the border areas. It is believed that these types of forces will no longer be a part of Russian-Sino military confrontation. In a word, the military tension in the border areas will be eased to a great extent.

Nevertheless, it is very obvious that the key to the normalization of the border situation is the delimitation of the boundary. Chinese parliamentarians are now discussing this question. I think the agreement will be ratified because both sides have pointed out that the agreement accords with the norm of international law. They also have emphasized that the agreement creates a good condition for stabilizing the border situation and developing normal relations between the two countries. Therefore, we have every reason to say that the agreement will come into force quickly.

Poltaranin Ends Visit To South Korea

LD2202230292 Moscow TASS in English 1710 GMT 22 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Zakharchenko]

[Text] Seoul February 22 TASS—The main result of the official visit to the Republic of Korea of Mikhail Poltoranin, Russian minister of information, which ended today, is the agreement to create an "information bridge" between Russia and the Republic of Korea, which will help the two nations know and understand each other better.

Russia and South Korea will develop close cooperation and exchanges in the sphere of information and press, which, in the long run, will both consolidate relations between the two countries and promote the implementation of the economic reform in Russia, Polltoranin said in an ITAR-TASS interview.

"We agreed not only about broad information exchanges, but also about the exchanges of scientists and journalists on various levels, he said. South Korean journalists and scientists could deliver lectures at the International Institute of the Press, which is being created in Moscow, about mechanisms which enabled South Korea to make such a remarkable progress in economic development. It would be usedful for Russia to draw on South Korea's experience for overcoming the crisis and passing over to a market-based system, Poltoranin stressed.

On the other hand, South Koreans themselves admit that their country is not receiving enough information from Russia, as a result of which they sometimes fail to understand properly what is going on in our country. The International Institute of the Press could be of much help in this respect, because prominent political scientists and economists will deliver lectures there to journalists, including foreign ones, in order to give them a most impartial and complete information about the situation in Russia.

During his meetings with Choi Chang-yun, his South Korean counterpart, and the head of the KBS TV and Radio Broadcasting Company, Poltoranin agreed that South Korean TV journalists would come to Russia in March for the purpose of boosting information exchange. Together with Russian TV workers, they will create joint groups, will tour Russia, meet various people and make a film, which will help South Koreans get a better idea of our life.

South Korean corporations will take part in the creation of international regional TV and radio broadcasting companies and, in the first place, of the Far Eastern Company, Poltoranin said. The Far Eastern International TV and Radio Broadcasting Company will be created on the basis of Russian TV companies—those from Vladivostok, Khabarovsk, Sakhalin, Magadan and Kamchatka. Our foreign partners—Japan, China and South Korea—will take part in this process. Each participant will have its own sphere of activities. For instance, the South Korean side will beam programmes to our region, and we shall beam programmes to the territory of South Korea, Poltoranin pointed out.

Poltoranin discussed in Seoul with representatives of the South Korean information services a possibility of using by them Russian satellites of the Proton system. Thanks to the capacities which are not being used at the moment, South Koreans will be given special time to broadcast their programmes. Aside from it, we are planning to create the All-Russian International TV and Radio Broadcasting Company on the basis of these satellites, Poltoranin said. It will be a major independent joint-stock company with the participation of various countries, including South Korea. Russian communication satellites can beam programmes to Europe, the Middle East and the Far East.

According to Poltoranin, he discussed with the South Korean side a possibility of joint ventures in the sphere of publishing. For example, Russia has in its possession unique documents about the history of Russian-Korean relations in the 19th century. Since the South Korean public shows a lively interest in this subject, agreement on joint publication was reached.

German Delegation Arrives in Kaliningrad

LD2102162192 Moscow TASS in English 1723 GMT 20 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Biryukov]

[Text] Kaliningrad February 20 TASS—Ottfried Henning, parliamentary state secretary of the FRG Defence Ministry, visited his native city for the first time in postwar years. He arrived in Kaliningrad as head of a German delegation that accompanied a cargo of humanitarian aid from Bundeswehr. Twenty-three tonnes of food and medicines delivered by air were distributed between local infirmaries and a military hospital.

The two-day visit of the German delegation had a very busy programme. "I was glad to take an opportunity to visit my native city which I had to leave in 1945", Ottfried Henning told ITAR-TASS. "I was pleased even more with the results of the negotiations. Mutual cooperation in the humanitarian area was discussed in a constructive way with high officials in the Kaliningrad region. The development of the infrastructure and the use of German capital in the creation of a free economic zone was also discussed. During a conversation with Commander of the Baltic Fleet, Admiral Yegorov, we have achieved mutual understanding on matters of repair and maintenance of naval vessels at shipyards in eastern Germany where they were built. The problem of registering, surfacing and deactivation of shells with toxic agents buried on the Baltic seabed were also discussed. It was decided to set up a mixed Russo-German commission for the purpose. Purity of the Baltic Sea is the common concern".

"The general impression from the trip is that the Kaliningrad region is no longer a mailed fist poised against the West, but an open hand extended for a friendly handshake. This gives us hope for the establishment of long-term goodneighbourly relations", Henning said.

Military 'Real Estate' Claims to FRG Reviewed

PM2002112992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Feb 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Report by Nikol[illegible] Burbyga and Sergey Guk: "Blackmail Rumors Som[illegible]what Exaggerated"]

[Text] Claims that Russia is trying to extract from Germany an additional 7 billion (according to some figures 10 billion) marks have upon checking proved inaccurate. But the German mass media have raised a din. The ungrateful Russians to whom we are sending food aid have put a knife to the FRG's throat, demanding new billions for the real estate left behind after the withdrawal of troops.

So are we demanding anything or not? No, it seems to be a case of trading whereby one side, as is the custom, tries to get as much as possible while the other side tries to knock down the price.

We were told at the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] Armed Forces High Command [Glavkomat] that the recent talks in Bonn between fully empowered Russian representatives and FRG officials on problems of the withdrawal of the Western Group of Forces were indeed difficult and revealed a difference in approach toward a number of fundamental issues concerning the sale of the Western Group of Forces real estate and the determination of sums for ecological damage. Our side made no claims for additional appropriations in connection with the withdrawal of the troops.

"There was talk of the difficulties of financing the troops' withdrawal in connection with the increase in prices for various tariffs and services, including the payment of rail shipments," says lieutenant General Vasiliy Vorobyev, chief of the Armed Forces Central Financial Directorate and a participant in the talks. "And another thing, there is an agreement with the Germans allowing us to 'sell off' the military townships. But implementing these intentions is not that simple. In this connection many experts both on our side and on the German side believe that the optimum option could be a deal providing for an overall wholesale payment for all our realty."

Military experts believe that the talks were useful and produced a real result. For instance, the German side agreed to reduce the deadline for financing and construction residential towns for Western Group of Forces servicemen in Russia from 1993 and 1994 to this year. That decision is explained by the fact that the troops outside the CIS have been taken under Russia's jurisdiction and are being withdrawn mainly to its territory. They cannot be allowed to remain without a roof over their heads.

As for real estate, in discussing the matter the Germans made it clear that they have no need of buildings and agreed that the military should dismantle or demolish them. It is true that recently there have been proposals from private German firms ready to acquire this real easte. Time will show what will come of this.

It is also worth citing the opinion of the official German side reported by ITAR-TASS correspondent V. Chistyakov:

H.-O. Solms, chairman of the parliamentary faction of the Free Democratic Party, called the problem of paying compensation for the barracks, apartment blocks, and other establishments previously constructed in the former GDR by the Soviet military a "very difficult one." It is impossible now to decide the question of their cost if only because the true scale of the detriment caused by the Army to the environment is not yet known. As a whole under the conditions of the free economy prices for land plots are determined only by the market. "But the prices requested by the Russian side in any case have nothing in common with reality," the politician stressed.

As we can see, there has been no "blackmail," on the other hand there is more than enough lack of system on our part. By the time the treaty on the withdrawal of troops from Germany had been elaborated and signed, our side had experience with similar agreements with Hungary and the CSFR. In both cases the question of Soviet military real estate was resolved for some reason on each occasion when the troops were already loading

the equipment onto the flatcars. And our partners, only yesterday our sworn friends and allies, looked surprised: We do not understand, what are you talking about? It is you who owe us for the ecological damage you have caused, but never mind, so be it, we forgive you because of our old friendship.

The same story has been repeated in Germany. One third of the troops has already been withdrawn and our side is trying to trade in the apartment blocks and structures. And it is as clear as day that we are in trouble, and the Germans will dictate terms to us. We shall be doing well if we gain anything and are not forced (at our own expense) to demolish our real estate.

UNICEF Provides Aid to Russian Children

LD2302231292 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1709 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Moscow, 20 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—A meeting between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and the leaders of the UNICEF mission providing humanitarian aid to the Russian Federation was held in the Kremlin today.

Boris Yeltsin thanked the UNICEF representatives for aid to the children of Russia, especially for allocating 600,000 ampules of measles vaccine. Other possible forms of UNICEF participation in implementing the program for children's protection in Russia were discussed. In particular, according to UNICEF leader Marco Vianello Chiodo, the UNICEF mission in the Russian Federation will help Russia to arrange the production of a measles vaccine. Thanks to this, 25 million measles cases can be prevented. Assistance is also possible in building facilities for the manufacture of vitamin-enriched baby food, the supply of medicine, and other forms of humanitarian aid.

Federation Affairs

Yeltsin Interviewed on Economic, Military Issues

PM2402100192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Feb 92 Morning Edition pp 1, 3

[Interview with President Boris Yeltsin by IZVESTIYA Military Correspondent Nikolay Burbyga; place and date not given: "Boris Yeltsin: Russia Has No Special Secret Policy Regarding Nuclear Issues"]

[Text] [Burbyga] Boris Nikolayevich, during the meeting of the heads of state in Minsk the discussion switched from a planned military discussion to economic problems. Does this not mean that solving the military problem has ended up in an impasse?

[Yeltsin] No, it does not. The reason probably lies elsewhere: The states which make up the Commonwealth are becoming increasingly aware of the interdependance of their respective economies. This self-evident fact was obscured for a long time by the existence of a Union center which dictated to the republics the terms of their relations, terms which benefited primarily the center itself. This led to a distorted development of interrepublican ties, but there was also another aspect. Our interdependence grew with every passing year. If such ties, deformed though they may be, are suspended, economic development grinds to a halt. This is precisely what is happening now. Virtually all the enterprises on the territory of the former Union are experiencing this.

Therefore restoring and updating traditional economic ties on the basis of mutual advantage is of vital importance, not just at the state level but between the producers themselves.

It was finally realized at the Minsk meeting in mid-February that the economy is not a peripheral zone of life but the cornerstone of everything. We included the discussion of economic problems on the agenda because it was simply impossible to do otherwise.

Now to the military theme. Of course, in my opinion, it should have been possible to do more. The development of the armed forces within the Commonwealth could have, I am convinced of this, followed a different scenario based on the preservation of the unified armed forces. As is known, Russia favors precisely this approach.

The times when a single viewpoint was foisted on everyone are gone. In the Commonwealth there are neither commanders nor subordinates. All the states are equal, and the position of each one is respected. This is one of the main principles of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States], a factor of its viability.

At the same time we have learned to negotiate agreements and elaborate compromises. Assessing the results of the latest Minsk meeting, I would like to note above all that the question of the Strategic Forces was resolved clearly and precisely. An agreement to this effect was concluded.

I would like to emphasize that in accordance with the Agreement, the Strategic Forces are **an independent strategic combined unit of the Commonwealth of Independent States.**

Their leadership is carried out by the commander, who is answerable to the Council of the Heads of State.

Thus we have reached a consensus. The territory of the former Union will not be a source of nuclear instability within the world community.

An Agreement on Social and Legal Guarantees for Servicemen, Persons Discharged from Military Service, and Members of their Families was concluded. I would like to emphasize that it applies to all who serve or who have served in the armed forces, irrespective of their combat arm or place of service. On this issue too we have reached agreement to implement a unified policy. It is

above all a question of guaranteeing full rights to these categories of citizens throughout the CIS territory without any restrictions.

Progress has also been achieved on questions pertaining to the funding of the armed forces.

At present Ukraine, Azerbaijan, and Moldova have embarked on the road of creating national armies. Let me stress that this is their right which we respect. However, other states, including Russia, believe that joint efforts to defend their states are more effective.

Naturally, these divergencies do not mean that there will be no cooperation in military policy with the states which are setting up national armies. The most important thing is to find optimum solutions, and in this respect the Minsk meeting was not without use. At the moment it is important not to disrupt the negotiations which are under way and not to rock them, in which case solutions are bound to emerge.

[Burbyga] Under what conditions will Russia be forced to set up its own armed forces?

[Yeltsin] Everyone probably understands that Russia has considerable advantages in this matter, and this is largely why we are in no hurry. I believe that the approach based on pooling states' efforts in questions of defense is preferable and more effective, and as long as this opinion is shared by the majority of the states of the Commonwealth, we will not change our stance.

[Burbyga] It is known from various sources that the Russian army is expected to have a numerical strength of 1 million, and its officer corps is to number 150,000-200,000. Today, as far we know, about 3 million men are serving in the army, of which around 1 million are officers. What is in store for those who will not be part of the Russian army?

[Yeltsin] The question of establishing a Russian army is not on the agenda, and therefore I do not want to comment on the figures which you have cited. Furthermore, these are not the only figures which have been mentioned. I believe it is more important to explain our general approach to problem which you have raised.

Our duty is to ensure state protection for the people who, for one reason or another, will be forced to leave the armed forces. I have already mentioned the Agreement to ensure legal and social guarantees for CIS servicemen, which was concluded in Minsk. It has a direct bearing also on those who will leave for the reserve.

At the same time, the Russian Federation itself is taking similar measures. I dwelt on this issue in my speech to the All-Army Officers' Assembly in January. Today I would like to add to what I said then. For the first time in the history of the armed forces, Russia has adopted a socially geared military budget. This means that 65 percent of all funds allocated to the Army have a human thrust. Areas which have been traditionally short of money—housing, food supplies, goods allowances, Army life [byt], etc.—are being given priority.

A few days ago I signed the decree "On Measures to Step Up Social Protection for Servicemen and Persons Discharged from Military Service." It envisages a number of major measures—specifically, increasing officers' pay on the basis of a minimum rate of 1,800 rubles [R]. When draftees are discharged to the reserve they will receive a one-shot payment of R [rubles] 500 and R2,000 if they have no parents.

The same decree stipulates that those who have served 20 years or more in the Army, as well as war veterans, internationalist servicemen, and family members of deceased servicemen will be given their own housing for free. They will have to pay 50 percent of the cost of municipal services. Servicemen who have served more than 15 years and have joined a housing cooperative or are building individual housing will receive free aid amounting to 50 percent of the cost of the cooperative housing or the bank loan to be used for construction.

Plots of land allocated for individual construction will be exempt from the corresponding tax. Servicemen with 15 years of service and more, as well as war veterans, internationalist servicemen, and family members of deceased servicemen will be allocated plots of land for the construction of housing for free. Moreover, they will also be allocated free land for orchards and truck gardens—25 ares in rural areas and 10 ares in urban-type settlements.

Administration heads in Russia have been instructed to eliminate our housing obligation [zadolzhennost] in the first half of this year. This is a tough measure, but it is dictated by a very severe situation.

The number of people in need of housing in our country exceeds 300,000 families—of whom around 200,000 are without their own apartment. This figure includes more than 120,000 on Russian territory.

In the conditions of transition to the market, people discharged to the reserve are increasingly concerned about the problem of finding work.

Our principled position is that this is not just a personal matter but primarily a state matter. Work is under way in several areas—training officers discharged to the reserve in civil professions, creating jobs for them, helping them organize their own business, guaranteeing privileges in job placement, and providing help in resettlement, if needed. In general, it covers the entire range of problems involved in adapting to civilian life.

Briefly, officers leaving the Army for various reasons can count on support.

[Burbyga] In one of your speeches you stated that Russia will engage in trade in arms and military equipment. Are we not thereby undermining our prestige? After all, it cannot be ruled out that the weapons will reach the most dangerous and strife-torn areas.

[Yeltsin] First I would note that weapons are a commodity traded by almost all the states which produce them. The Soviet Union was no exception.

The arms trade is also an enforced necessity for us today. It is a source of foreign currency, which is currently in extremely short supply. It is also a condition for supporting defense sectors. Readers will probably be aware that we have cut defense spending sharply, and spending on arms procurements in particular. The corresponding cuts in weapons production would be a severe blow to the plants producing them. This abrupt turnaround would inevitably lead to social problems and leave millions of people on the brink of unemployment. The arms trade would act like a shock absorber on this process.

We have discussed this issue with several Western leaders—including the United States—and our position has met with understanding.

At the same time, new aspects are appearing in our arms trade. We are departing from our ideological approach to this issue and from supporting those who declare their adherence to certain doctrines. We are conducting this trade at **state level** and openly.

Russia shares the guiding arms trade principles approved in London in October 1991 by the leading conventional arms-exporting countries and will adhere to those principles. I must say that Soviet arms have a good reputation and are in demand, but I agree with you—weapons are weapons. We always remember that.

[Burbyga] It is well known that conversion of the military-industrial complex is currently bogged down. Why is this the case, in your view? Are you confident that it will be possible to arrange for its transition to civilian production?

[Yeltsin] Yes, conversion of defense production is one of Russia's most important problems. There are few countries where the defense industry has such a significant position. Of course, it will take gigantic efforts and expenditure to totally alter our distorted economic structure. All this will take time.

I agree with you that the first phase of conversion has been a failure [ne poluchilsya]. You get the impression that from the very outset emphasis had been placed on the traditional principle of changing while changing nothing, maintaining the military-industrial complex' positions at all costs, not allowing anything new into the defense sector of the economy, and blocking reforms in it. This has dealt a severe blow to enterprises and left them teetering on the brink of survival. Conversion has evolved on the basis of the worst option—it has been a natural disaster.

For several years people did not embark on any serious transformation of the defense sector. Now a great deal will have to done "from scratch"—even from less than scratch. In 1992, part of the funds released from defense spending will be directly channeled into financing conversion. We have a number of major projects for converting modern military technologies, including in the nuclear industry. We advocate the comprehensive development of cooperation with foreign firms in this area. Cooperation is being organized with a number of countries—including Italy, Britain, Germany, and others—to use defense enterprises' production capacity to jointly produce civilian output and primarily consumer goods, which will be in line with the defense sector's scientific and technical potential.

Of course, defense sectors are currently in a difficult position, but I am sure that we have chances to hang on to everything valuable that has been accumulated in this sphere.

[Burbyga] You have announced that our missiles are no longer targeted on U.S. cities. So what are their targets now? There are a lot of conjectures and much vagueness in this respect. In general, is Russia prepared to be the first to use nuclear weapons?

[Yeltsin] I will answer your second question first because it is of fundamental importance. Russia will not be the first to use nuclear weapons. This is our fundamental stance.

Now to the targets of our missiles. In this question we proceed from the fact that many years of confrontation between the West and the East, between our country and the United States have ended. The military doctrine which was based on the division of the world into two opposed systems has become part of history. Thus the need to target our missiles on those who are not our enemies and with whom we are not about to wage war has disappeared. I would like to stress that this is **not a unilateral measure on our part which serves to disarm us. We are implementing it on a reciprocal basis, primarily with the United States. The missiles will have a "zero flight plan [nulevoye poletnoye zadaniye]."**

At the same time, the world is not yet a safe place. There are regions which require heightened attention. Naturally, the new political reality does not require nuclear weapons on the scale to which they have been accumulated. This is precisely why we have put forward the proposal for deep cuts to be effected on a reciprocal basis with the United States.

Of late, conjectures have appeared in the mass media claiming that there is a danger of the use of the military factor in our relations with the former republics of the Union. These are not realistic. What is more, I regard such suggestions as blasphemous and insulting. Russia has no special secret policy on nuclear issues. A united policy in the sphere of Strategic Armed Forces is being implemented within the Commonwealth. It would be simply impossible to use nuclear weapons without the knowledge and consent [bez vedoma] of any one of the nuclear republics.

[Burbyga] America, and other states too as everyone knows, while displaying respect of universal human values and interests, nevertheless never forget their national interests, and—on the contrary—even put them first. Somehow we do not hear from our politicians that this or that action of ours is in keeping with the state interests of Russia. Boris Nikolayevich, does Russia have its own interests? If so, can you tell us please what they are.

[Yeltsin] On more than one occasion have I read and heard this type of reproach claiming that Russia's leadership is all but renouncing its state interests, that it is retreating in all spheres.

I categorically disagree with such claims.

It is true that Russia has ceased to be the main source of power in a vast communist empire. Plans to repaint the planet red have been dropped. We have rid ourselves of the notion that we are surrounded by covert or overt enemies, that the main thing in the world is struggle, and that it is necessary to win at all costs.

The elevation of these decrepit notions to the principle of foreign policy brought about the collapse of the totalitarian system in the end. They inflicted enormous damage on our people and our national interests. Not insignificantly, they did not bring happiness to a single country or people.

There is no wall dividing foreign and domestic policy. Today they are both based on the Russian people's interests. I believe that there is no need to persuade anyone that the most important thing for our country is to pull ourselves from the deep quagmire of the crisis and master the transition to a new footing which will enable us and other people to live and work normally.

This is precisely why we are interested in ensuring that there is a truly stable peace, that standards of civilized life are applied in the world community, and mutually advantageous cooperation is strengthened.

We are categorically opposed to diktat in respect of states, of peoples, and of citizens. The Russian Federation is firmly committed to strengthening human rights and freedoms both inside the country and abroad.

These are the most important priorities of Russia's present-day foreign policy. In foreign policy we are only taking our first steps. Not everyone agrees with us in our country. The influence of imperial thought is strong. However, I believe that in time we will all come to understand that the policy of goodwill is much more in keeping with our interests than a position-of-strength policy.

[Burbyga] As far as we know, Boris Nikolayevich, Russia is not planning to totally eliminate nuclear weapons. Why? In general, do you regard nuclear weapons as a factor of a power's might, as a deterrent, or an offensive weapon? Do you believe that in time mankind will rid itself of the nuclear arsenal once and for all?

[Yeltsin] I have answered this question several times already, but if it is necessary, I am prepared to repeat.

Russia favors nuclear disarmament not a unilateral disarmament but one based on parity. The principle of nonproliferation of nuclear weapons must be strictly observed. Our strategic goal is a nuclear-free world, and we are in favor of achieving it as soon as possible although setting deadlines in advance would probably be naive.

Speaking in general terms, I believe that the emergence of nuclear weapons on earth was a great evil. It is true, of course, that they have acted as a deterrent, but that is nonetheless not the main point. The entire world policy underwent a revolution in the wake of the emergence of these weapons. Having created a weapon for its own annihilation, mankind was forced to spend vast amounts of energy on protecting itself from it and from new, previously unknown forms of blackmail, terrorism, accidents, and even human error.

In a nutshell, I am no advocate of nuclear weapons, and if their final destruction in the world takes place in my lifetime, I will be truly happy. It is a dream, of course.

[Burbyga] It is well known that your circle of advisers on military matters includes signals officer Army General Konstantin Kobets, political worker Colonel General Dmitriy Volkogonov, and Galina Starovoytova. What about Rutskoy? He graduated from three higher military educational establishments with gold medals and has combat experience, yet he has turned out to be virtually Russia's main agrarian. Is this not a case of the old saying "people should stick to what they know best?" All the more as you said in the election campaign that you had chosen Rutskoy because you yourself had insufficient training in military matters.

[Yeltsin] I would like to correct you right away. G. Starovoytova is not an adviser on military matters; she deals with the problems of interethnic relations.

As for A. Rutskoy, for more than six months he has been primarily vice president and, in accordance with the Constitution, works on instructions from the president. I consider it inappropriate to make fun of his new duties. It is a highly complex sphere of activity—a key area for Russia—and it needs specialists, people with broad knowledge, in all spheres.

Aleksandr Vladimirovich is a man of vigorous energy; he is known for his persistence and doggedness.

Given the subject of our conversation, I would like to stress that the many thousands of soldiers who, after being discharged to the reserve, will come into agriculture and become farmers, will play a considerable role in the success of transformations in the countryside. I think that A. Rutskoy will really be able to help in resolving these matters.

I have an agreement in principle with the government on close cooperation with the vice president.

[Burbyga] There are dozens of republics in Russia which have declared their sovereignty. These young states within Russia, increasingly strengthening the foundations of their sovereignty, are creating the necessary attributes of statehood. Do you consider it possible that armed formations, if not armed forces, could emerge in these states?

[Yeltsin] I think that these matters should be settled on a strictly legal basis and, of course, regulated by the Constitution and the Federal Treaty.

[Burbyga] Boris Nikolayevich, it cannot be ruled out that in time a line demarcating state borders will be drawn even between CIS members. In your opinion, could the border wars shift from the former frontiers of the USSR and currently the CIS to the frontiers of Russia?

[Yeltsin] Just like in any other hypothesis, there is a certain meaning in what you are asking, but the states of the Commonwealth, including Russia, are concerned with other problems today. The questions which you are asking are not topical in view of the actual trends emerging in the Commonwealth, and the accords which have already been achieved between the CIS states.

[Burbyga] As is known, the president of Russia is also the supreme commander in chief of the Armed Forces. The question arises: What armed forces do you command. There is no united army any more. Incidentally, what is your military title?

[Yeltsin] You exaggerate. The president of Russia is not supreme commander in chief. The armed forces on the territory of Russia—both strategic and conventional forces—are subordinated to Marshal of Aviation Ye.I. Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the joint [obyedinennye] armed forces of the Commonwealth. My military title is colonel.

In conclusion, I would like to touch on another subject—23 February is approaching. Traditionally on this day we honored the military and veterans and congratulated our menfolk. We will be continuing the tradition this year. I think that 23 February should continue to be Armed Forces Day in Russia.

May I take this opportunity to cordially congratulate all who have served or are serving in the Army and Navy, as well as IZVESTIYA's readers, on the coming holiday.

Ceremony, Demonstrations Mark Armed Forces' Day

Yeltsin, Gorbachev Attend Concert

LD2102220492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 21 Feb 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpts] Hello! So far today's celebration of 23 February in no way deviates from tradition, except that, in contrast with former times, no one is employing the word party.

Today the Russian president was with the military. He did not speak, but came together with all the top Russian leaders in Moscow. Thus, everything was done to make sure that the military does not feel insulted by lack of attention.

This session was preceded by a lengthy discussion in the parliaments and the media, and among the public. Do the states of the Commonwealth need unified armed forces, or a unified command of units of strategic designation? It seems that the politicians have arrived at the opinion that, yes, they do need them. But what will happen during the next six months or a year? And will not it come about that, in a year's time, Armed Forces' Day will have its own name in each of the states of the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS]?

[Video shows officers and men arriving at Kremlin for concert]

Incidentally, in Moscow it is already being called Defenders of the Fatherland Day. The Moscow City Council, together with the Personnel Command of the Unified Armed Forces of the CIS and the Moscow Military District, arranged today's session. [passage omitted]

For practically the first time in recent months, Boris Yeltsin, Aleksandr Rutskoy, and Mikhail Gorbachev are in one hall together. They considered it their duty to be present at today's session. Well, there you are! Does it mean that the army can not only fight, but can also unite people who have their own, sometimes quite different, views?

[Video shows Yeltsin and wife in audience, then Rutskoy with unidentified woman, finally, panning from left to right, Gorbachev, wife, unidentified woman, and Aleksandr Yakovlev]

Popov, Shaposhnikov Cited

LD2102211692 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1716 GMT 21 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Andrey Naryshkin and Sergey Postanogov]

[Text] Moscow, 21 Feb (TASS)— A soiree on the occasion of the Day of the Armed Forces, which took place at the Kremlin Palace of Congresses, gathered together not only people in shoulder boards but top state leaders, as well and many members of the public. Among participants in the festivities were Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin and Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy. Ex-President Mikhail Gorbachev also came to congratulate soldiers on the day that celebrates their profession.

Opening the soiree, Moscow Mayor Gavriil Popov, in particular, said: "As long as there is the army there is and there will be Russia. The army is a continuing and basic element of the Russian state. Therefore no programs to transform Russia can be either full or successful if the army's problems are not effectively resolved. The Russian Army means the life and fate of tens of millions of people. In Russia the army and the people are inseparable. Therefore coup attempts by black colonels are doomed here. The military, undoubtedly, will cope with the transformation of the army themselves, but in the social sphere we should help them."

Air Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the united Armed Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States, wished "Self-possession, courage, and a decent way out of the situation we found ourselves in as the fates decree," to all soldiers today. In an interview to with ITAR-TASS correspondents a few minutes before the beginning of the soiree, he said: "Russian people have one distinctive quality—the ability to cope with any situation, even the most complicated, with dignity".

The soiree concluded with a concert.

Yeltsin, Others Visit Tomb

LD2302133592 Moscow TASS in English at 1314 GMT 23 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow February 23 TASS—Boris Yeltsin, president and head of government of the Russian Federation, today laid a wreath at the Unknown Soldier's Tomb near the Kremlin Wall on the occasion of the Armed Forces Day.

Ruslan Khasbulatov and Valeriy Zorkin laid wreaths on behalf of the Supreme Soviet (parliament) and the Constitutional Court of Russia.

The wreaths-laying ceremony was attended by Russian Vice-President Alexandr Rutskoy, Marshal of the Air Force Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander-in-chief of the joint Armed Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States, Gennadiy Burbulis, state secretary and first deputy head of Russia's Government, Sergey Filatov, first deputy speaker of the Russian parliament, by other government, parliament and military leaders of Russia.

Yeltsin Pledges Reform Commitment

OW2302140392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1331 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Excerpt] At 10:00 on Sunday [23 February] President Yeltsin and other Russian leaders laid wreaths on the Unknown Soldier's grave at the Kremlin wall. The ceremony involved Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy, Speaker of Russia's parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov, First Deputy Prime Minister Gennadiy Burbulis, Chairman of the Constitutional Court Zorkin, heads of the two chambers of Russia's parliament and cabinet ministers.

In answer to a question from IF's [INTERFAX] correspondent Boris Yeltsin said: "For the first time ever today the leaders laying wreaths included representatives of the four ruling powers: the president and those who lead the parliament, the government and the constitutional court. We've put this ritual in conformity with our constitution and legislation at last. The equitable branches of power must be alongside, not follow one another".

With reference to restrictions on public gatherings in Manezh Square B. Yeltsin said that requests to sanction meetings there at the same time had been filed by 4 groupings opposing each other. In this connection the authorities decided to allot to these groupings different squares in Moscow to avoid the possible excesses. "Neither I nor the government have intended to prevent the opposition from holding meetings. But we are not going to put human lives at risk. I don't think it was a violation of democracy", he said.

After the ceremony Russian leaders spoke with people who were in Manezh Square at the time. His government, Boris Yeltsin pointed out, has no intention of deviating from its policy of reforms, particularly now that the first signs of stabilization have emerged. [passage omitted]

Yeltsin, Burbulis Meet Reporters

OW2302140592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1331 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Text] After the ceremony of laying wreaths Russia's President Boris Yeltsin and First Deputy Premier Gennadiy Burbulis gave a brief interview to IF's [INTERFAX] correspondents Vyacheslav and Yevgeniy Terekhovs.

When asked about the state of affairs in the CIS, Boris Yeltsin said that the economic situation compelled the leaders of member countries to resort to closer economic contacts. "Since even Kravchuk and I had to sign an agreement between Russia and Ukraine in which we stated the need for a common ruble-circulation zone (as a matter of fact, it was initiated by Ukraine), this means that economic considerations gain the upper hand. It's clear to everyone that a disruption of economic ties will lead to chaos. Mines, smelting plants and electronic industry facilities are stopping. Shutdown threatens not only these enterprises. It should be absolutely clear to everyone that historic links between Russia and Ukraine must not be disrupted. Fortunately, the process of integration between the economies of the two sovereign states is under way. We speak with the Ukrainian President or Prime Minister almost every day to discuss the complex issues of interaction. I am confident that we'll establish mutually beneficial economic cooperation on the basis of respect for sovereignty".

On April 15 his government will liberalize the coal prices to make it possible to increase allocations for the social needs of mine workers, Boris Yeltsin said. The upcoming price liberalization will concern only coal. The prices of coke will be regulated as before, otherwise the cost of smelting plants' products would rise sharply which would inevitably unleash new price hikes on all goods. According to First Deputy Premier Gennadiy Burbulis, the talks with miners he held in Vorkuta previously "might be continued", since the initial problem of wages is growing into an issue of strategy for basic industries. Moreover, the issue of miners' wages is closely connected with the implementation of a program for regional development in the North. "We must formulate a concept for developing these regions, but in order to do so we should clearly determine the role played by the mining industries".

Burbulis assessed the results of his trip to the Komi Republic as "normal". According to him, the main thing is that the people have understood the essence of and the need for current reforms, as well as the natural complications of the period of transition. "One has to resolve one's social problems on the basis of the results of one's work", he said.

Dialogue With Ukraine Begins

PM2402104992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Feb 92 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "Military Band Played, Boris Yeltsin Answered Questions"]

[Text] After laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier yesterday, Boris Yeltsin went to Manezh Square where a composite military band was playing. Answering journalists' questions, the president stated that today's wreath-laying ceremony on behalf of the executive, the legislative, and the judiciary was no accident, since "these are equal branches of power and should not follow each other, but move together, on an equal footing."

Boris Yeltsin went on to note that four squares in Moscow had been set aside for rallies. As he put it, they were being held by four opposed groups which had applied to hold rallies in Manezh Square. But this could not be allowed, the president said. There could be trouble. Second, it would complicate access to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. And is it a bad thing for a military band to be playing for people on Manezh Square? I think, Boris Yeltsin noted, that democracy has been observed and that there will be order in Moscow.

Talking about the 14 February meeting of the CIS heads of state in Minsk, Boris Yeltsin stressed that the main prerequisite for its positive outcome was the economic situation. "Thousands of ties are being broken, mines have shut down, and metallurgy and the electronics industry are shutting down." The historic link between Russia and Ukraine must not be broken, the president noted. "That is why integration is now under way." Boris Yeltsin added that he is telephoned almost every day by Ukrainian President Kravchuk and Prime Minister Fokin. "A normal dialogue is under way, and I think that things will be arranged and are gradually moving forward," he summed up.

The president refuted the report on Russian Television's "Vesti" program, citing INTERFAX, that Moscow is allegedly "only being fed by humanitarian aid." "That is a lie," Boris Yeltsin said. Aid is running at 10-15 percent, but no more. All our other food comes from supplies from Russia and the other CIS countries."

Talking later with foreign citizens in Manezh Square—including Italians—the president noted, in particular, that "Italians should now firmly go about winning the Russian market, so as not to miss the boat—because in a year from now it will be too late. This is now the world's richest market. The $6-billion Italian loan has been released and should be rapidly realized in deliveries of equipment, technology, and food. It also includes a very good program for restoring compressor stations and oil wells, so as to increase oil extraction. A great deal of joint work lies ahead."

Yeltsin Sends Soldiers Greetings

LD2202183692 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1530 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin has sent greetings to compatriots bearing arms outside Russia. He heartily congratulated soldiers and their families on the Day of the Armed Forces. The message notes that, no matter what severe trials befall us, the Russian people believe that the reputation and dignity of a warrior and his loyalty to the fatherland will stay unshakeable and steadfast. The Russian president wished warriors good health and happiness.

Rally in Mayakovskiy Square

LD2302093992 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0828 GMT 23 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow, 23 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—Organizers of an opposition mass meeting devoted to Armed Forces Day decided to hold it in Mayakovskiy Square, rather than in Manezh Square near the Kremlin as had been planned, after running into reinforced militia detachments in Sadovoye Koltso.

The mass meeting opened at 1100 and lasted for 20 minutes. Representatives of the Union of Free Officers were the first to take the floor. Speakers expressed support for the former Soviet Army and the USSR Armed Forces. After this the militia cordons opened Tverskaya Square and all the participants moved toward the city center.

As Colonel Valeriy Podguzov, member of the Central Committee of the Russian Communist Working Party,

told an ITAR-TASS correspondent, the aim of the organizers of the demonstration is to tell those gathered there that a single energetic army is the guarantee of peace. "We should express our dissatisfaction with the economic and social policies of the present Russian Government," he added.

Troops Contain Demonstrators

LD2302112192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0938 GMT 23 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow, 23 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—The movement of a 10,000-strong column of Muscovites under the red flags of the opposition was again blocked by the militia less than halfway from the Sadovoye Koltso Ring Road to the center of the city.

Only individual participants in the procession managed to make their way through the chain of the Special Purpose Militia Detachment [OMON] and barriers made up of buses and motor vehicles. A spontaneous rally sprang up here, the main slogans of which were "The Army and the people are united!" and "No support for the Russian Government and the mayor's office of the capital."

This was preceded by a 20-minute rally held under similar slogans in Mayakovskiy Square (Sadovoye Koltso Ring Road) since the mayor had not allowed today's demonstrations [manifestatsiya] to be held in the center of the city. Although Viktor Ampilov, leader of the Working Russia [Trudovaya Rossiya] movement called upon those at the rally to be calm, some of them broke through four cordons of OMON personnel and moved toward the center along Tverskaya Street.

No 'Serious Incidents'

LD2302104392 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1013 GMT 23 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Vdovin and Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow, 23 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—The scaffolding on a building on Tver Boulevard was been used as a podium for a stormy rally. Approximately 10,000 people gathered and met the speeches of Lieutenant General Albert Makashov and Russian People's Deputy Sergey Baburin with loud "hurrahs." The speakers called on the people to express their lack of confidence in the Russian Government on 17 March, the anniversary of the all-Union referendum on the preservation of the USSR. General Makashov proposed that USSR people's deputies hold their congress on that day to, in his words, correct the mistake and resurrect the Soviet Union. The participants in the rally honored all dead soldiers of the Soviet Army with a minute of silence.

Although the demonstrators are trying to break through the militia cordon, no serious incidents have been noted. An ITAR-TASS correspondent was hit with a truncheon, and he has seen at least three participants in the rally with slight injuries.

Demonstrators Adopt Resolution

LD2302132692 Moscow TASS in English 1211 GMT 23 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow February 23 TASS—The meeting on Tverskaya Street ended at 13.30, Moscow time, with the adoption of a resolution in support of the common armed forces and in protest at the break-up of the Soviet Union.

Speakers at the meeting included people's deputies of the former USSR, activists of a number of public movements and servicemen. They voiced concern over "carving the army out on an ethnic basis", "a thoughtless reduction in the armed forces" and the lack of a legislative basis for a military reform and defence advancement.

Then participants in the meeting, bypassing cordons that blocked the central thoroughfare, headed for the Unknown Soldier's Tomb near the Kremlin Wall, where they intend to lay wreaths.

Demonstrators Blocked From Tomb

LD2302144492 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1247 GMT 23 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Vdovin]

[Text] Moscow, Feb 23 (ITAR-TASS)—Demonstrators protesting in an antigovernment rally on Tver Street and carrying wreaths toward the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier by the Kremlin Wall were blocked on Herzen Street. They changed direction to the New Arbat, where they broke through a militia cordon. However, they encountered a more solid cordon as they approached the city center and were unable to overcome it. One of the rally's organizers, Viktor Ampilov, tried unsuccessfully to meet with city authorities to persuade them to let the demonstrators through to the eternal flame. The rally continued in front of roadblocks made up of dump trucks.

Participants Detailed

OW2302153192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1331 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A massive anti-government demonstration was staged in Moscow on Sunday [23 February]. It was launched by a number of nationalilst organizations on the occasion of the Red Army anniversary now marked as Motherland's Defenders' Day. The action began near Mayakovskiy Square [Sq] which at first was cordoned off. Demonstrators brought red flags and posters with

slogans calling against the plans to divide the army, for socialism, for the USSR, for the release of last August's conspirators, and the like. Officers were urged "to recall the December of 1825" when a group of officers refused to pledge loyalty to the new Czar.

The action was sponsored by the "Working Moscow" movement, by the Officers' Union, by the Socialist Party of Workers, by the Social Initiatives Fund and by monarchists. Those present were addressed by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party, who described the present authorities as time servers and promised to stage a nationwide anti-government strike in March-April.

Some of the demonstrators: communists and monarchists, broke the cordon and moved toward the city's center along Tverskaya Street. Police cordons at Mayakovskaya Sq. were lifted, and demonstrators rushed to Pushkin Square througtl Tverskaya Street.

By midday between 7 and 10 thousand people gathered there, however police cordons checked their progress.

The authorities used loudspeakers to warn the demonstrators that access to the central part of the city will be limited from 10:00 to 18:00 in connection with actions devoted to Motherland's Defenders' Day taking place in Mariezh Square. The authorities appointed Commune Square, Gorkiy Park and Ostankino as sites for public gatherings.

Ministry Views Demonstrations

LD2302170792 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1452 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Text] Moscow, 23 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—According to estimates by the Interior Ministry, 10,000 militiamen and the same number of opponents of Boris Yeltsin's government faced each other today in Moscow. The demonstrations, held on Armed Forces Day, passed without casualties and only an insignificant number of injuries.

As is known, the Moscow mayoralty refused to allow a number of parties and movements to hold rallies on Manezh Square, since that was the venue for a wreath-laying ceremony by the republic's leaders at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Since these parties' and movements' leaderships insisted on demonstrating at Manezh Square, the Interior Ministry bodies drew up a special plan, stated militia Major General Vyacheslav Ogorodnikov, head of the Russian Interior Ministry's Public Order Department, in an interview distributed via the ministry's public relations center. The plan entailed cordoning off certain squares in the city.

The Interior Ministry provisionally estimates that about 10,000 took part in the rallies. Ogorodnikov justified the deployment of 10,000 militiamen, because the the rally organizers' advance notification assumed that there would be about 400,000 demonstrators. The militia were deployed not only in likely trouble spots but in all places where crowds were expected.

Assessing today's events, Ogorodnikov stressed: "One gets the impression that people are picking a fight with the bodies of law and order."

According to preliminary Interior Ministry figures, more than 10 Moscow militiamen received injuries of varying degrees. The duty casualty department told ITAR-TASS that some civilians were also hurt during the demonstrations. This is also preliminary information, as the number and nature of injuries is still being ascertained.

Representatives Visit Tomb

LD2302151992 Moscow TASS in English 1459 GMT 23 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Yuriy Vdovin and Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow February 23 TASS—After being confronted by militia not far from the Manezh Square in downtown Moscow for an hour and a half, the participants in the antigovernment demonstration were granted an opportunity to lay wreathes at the Unknown Soldier's Tomb.

At the approach to central squares, the road to demonstrators was blocked by heavy trucks and a line of militia from OMON Special- Purpose units.

Victor Ampilov, chairman of the Russian Communist Workers Party, told ITAR-TASS that during the negotiation he had in the town hall the authorities refused to give permission to admit demonstrators to the eternal fire at the Kremlin Wall. But later it was agreed with the Department for the Protection of Public Order that three groups of 20 representatives each be formed and taken in buses to the place.

Wreathes were laid on behalf of Trudovay Rossia and Trudovay Moskva organisations, the Union of Communists, the Marxist Platform Union, as well as from a group of the military headed by General Albert Makashov. The unit of OMON militia left the place of the confrontation. Only a small cordon of militiamen was left.

Meanwhile, the mass of demonstrators went away from the centre along Novy Arbat. However, they could not reach the Russian parliament building as it was sealed off. The march ended in the Arbat square in a rally that was not large. Victor Ampilov and General Albert Makashov addressed the rally.

'About 15,000' Participated

LD2402030592 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0200 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Excerpts] The latest Russian Internal Affairs Ministry reports indicate that about 15,000 people rallied in

Moscow on 23 February, on the occasion of Armed Forces Day. A total of 10,000 militia workers ensured that law and order was observed. [passage omitted]

The Russian Internal Affairs Ministry reports that 17 militia workers were injured and that seven rally participants needed medical treatment.

Burbulis Questioned on Current Topics

LD2302181692 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1400 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Relay of a BBC World Service telephone call-in program featuring Gennadiy Burbulis, first deputy prime minister of the Russian Federation, replying to questions called in by BBC listeners, hosted by unidentified BBC announcer; questions in English followed by Russian translation; Burbulis answers in Russian with simultaneous English translation—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Announcer] We have a question from Mr. Cook.

[Cook] What action is being taken or planned to ensure that former Soviet nuclear weapons, scientists, and knowledge are not obtained by other states or organizations?

[Burbulis] Esteemed Mr. Cook, we share your concern. I want to assure you and everybody else who is worried about the fate of nuclear weapons created and deployed by the former totalitarian state on the present territory of the CIS countries. We advocate complete control over nuclear weapons. As you know, Russian President Boris Yeltsin has been given the right to exercise control over strategic nuclear weapons, including the control over that most ill-starred of buttons, the nuclear button.

We are currently seeking an absolute guarantee for the entire world community that the nuclear weapons we have inherited will be gradually scrapped and that the warheads will be reduced in the framework of our program, in order to rule out any threat of their going astray or proliferation, and especially to prevent unauthorized use.

[Announcer] Mr. Cook, do you want to comment on that answer?

[Cook] You gave a very honest and frank answer to my question, but I would like a more specific reply. After all, a very great deal of money will be needed. Many scientists will not be able to work in the Soviet Union. They will be offered huge sums of money to go abroad. What can you do?

[Burbulis] We are taking all the steps necessary to preserve and protect Russian scientists from the temptation to pass on their knowledge and information to outside parties. There is a major program to provide financing for Russian science, in which authoritative international structures are taking part. Among other things, an international fund will be set up shortly to support Russian scientists. We are setting up a special structure to provide incentives for the work of nuclear scientists. The president of Russia intends to adopt corresponding documents in this regard in the near future.

[Announcer] Thank you, Mr. Burbulis. Thank you, Mr Cook. [passage omitted]

You have mentioned President Yeltsin. The next question is from a listener in Ukraine, Veniamin Mikhailovich Mikhaylov.

[Mikhaylov] Good day, Mr. Burbulis.

[Burbulis] Good evening, Veniamin Mikhailovich.

[Mikhaylov] Allow me to introduce myself. I am Veniamin Mikhailovich Mikhaylov from Ternopol, in the western Ukraine. Here is my question: What adjustments would you make in relations between Russia and Ukraine if you became president of Russia?

[Burbulis] I am quite satisfied with being a close comrade-in- arms of President Yeltsin. However, your question is a very fundamental one, Veniamin Mikhailovich. My answer is as follows: It is already clear that Russia and Ukraine are two states that are linked not just by a great history but also by no less worthy a future. It is already clear that there is no substance to attempts by some to regard the gaining of independence by Ukraine and Russia as a pretext or excuse to cause a fight between our peoples or states. I am confident that economic ties between our territories, regions, and enterprises will be steadily restored.

That is precisely what is reiterated by the agreement signed by President Yeltsin and President Kravchuk on 14 February in Minsk. We reiterated there that economic activities by Ukraine and Russia will be guaranteed by a single ruble space. We reiterate that we will have single customs regulations and a single banking system. Most important of all, enterprises that were inseparably linked to each other for decades are restoring their contractual obligations and will continue these ties in the future. I think that this is a basis for strengthening relations between Russia and Ukraine.

All difficulties of a political, ideological, and, to some extent, ethnic nature are surmountable, since both the Russian and Ukrainian peoples are significantly wiser and are historically more committed to each other than it might seem in today's complex and heated days of reform.

[Mikhaylov] Mr. Burbulis, that was an excellent reply. Let me ask you to say a few words about the Crimea and the Black Sea Fleet. What are the latest changes in the position of the Russian Government?

[Burbulis] As far as the Fleet is concerned, since the most recent meeting in Minsk of the council of heads of state, we have adopted a more objective approach to the definition of what should be considered strategic combat

units from the various forces, including the fleet. As you noted, we are now avoiding conspiratorial and indirect approaches. We are now shifting to a normal negotiating process involving experts and specialists, based on the Minsk accords. Ukraine is a state that is entitled to have its own armed forces, although it has agreed to join the joint strategic armed forces of the Commonwealth states. In turn, Russia supports the armed forces of the Commonwealth, both strategic ones and the general purpose troops. It has undertaken to observe all the Minsk and Alma-Ata accords very strictly and consistently.

In my view, the problem of the Crimea requires a very cautious and considered approach. First and foremost, it must be decided now by the population of the Crimea, without prompting from any outside party.

[Announcer] Thank you. [passage omitted]

From the East Coast of the United States we move to Hong Kong. Here is a question from Mr. Lawrence.

[Lawrence] We heard about the demonstrations in Moscow today. We also hear about President Yeltsin's economic reforms. My question is: Does Yeltsin have sufficient political support in Russia to carry out the necessary economic reforms in Russia, despite the growing dissatisfaction of the population?

[Burbulis] Mr. Lawrence, I will answer you briefly, as the esteemed organizers of this program request. Yeltsin does have sufficient support, first of all because an absolute majority of the Russians see themselves today as victors over that exhausting and ruinous system under which we lived for the last 70 years. The sense of disaster, collapse, and disorganization is alien to us. Do we have difficulties? Yes. Do we have problems? Yes. However, there are prospects and opportunities opening up for every citzien of Russia today. Here lies the support for President Yeltsin by the absloute majority of the population. Here lies a guarantee for us on the irreversibility of our reforms. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] We have a question from a listener in Zelenograd, Russia, on what grounds there are for the government's assertion that there has been a reduction in the price of staple foodstuffs.

[Burbulis] I can confidently say that there are several regions in Russia, including Moscow, St. Petersburg, Chelyabinsk, and Novosibirsk, where prices remain catastrophically high, but there is also a whole number of regions where prices are very gradually dropping as they assume something approaching a market character, with the goods in the shops matching the abilities of the population to acquire them. I am certain that, for all our difficulties, the exhausting lines that we recently faced have now been eliminated for a whole number of items of produce. As we continue to build up the amount of goods available and to provide incentives for our agricultural producers, this process will, I think, steadily proceed in a favorable direction. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] We now move to Saudi Arabia and a call from Mr. 'Ali.

['Ali] Mr. Burbulis, in your opinion is there a danger of yet another attempt at a coup d'etat on the part of the opponents of the present course? What can be done to prevent this?

[Burbulis] There is a certain group largely consisting of those who have not reconciled themselves to our reforms, including convinced communists and a few lost people, which I believe intends to gather strength and organize such a coup. However, before the formation of the Commonwealth of Independent States, and before the president and his allies started to implement reforms in Russia, the danger of such a coup was far greater. Today, day by day, we are becoming more and more convinced that the power of our revanchists is ever diminishing. Despite their desperate attempts to get together and organize themselves, I think that they are doomed. [passage omitted]

Burbulis on Government Opposition, Possible Army

LD2402012292

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1730 GMT on 23 February carries a 20-minute edition of its regularly scheduled "Facing Russia" program, including a live or recorded interview with Gennadiy Burbulis, Russian first deputy prime minister, by correspondent Aleksandr Shashkov. Place and date of interview not given.

Burbulis opens the interview by wishing Russians a happy Armed Forces Day, adding that "all the reforms are directed toward a worthy and patriotic—in the good sense—Russian future."

Shashkov then refers to the Moscow rallies that "somewhat darkened" Armed Forces Day celebrations and asks Burbulis to "paint a portrait of the present government opposition," to which Burbulis replies: "There is a certain section of the population—now striving to find its own, sometimes provocative, organizational forms—which is dissatisfied not so much with the government led by Boris Nikolayevich as with the real prospects for life, the foundations for which are being laid by current reforms in Russia. I speak of those who are convinced that we had a worthy order and that we had a highly organized country—the USSR—and that we parted with it according to the evil wishes of certain political activists and of those who are incapable of understanding that things are actually completely the reverse. The matter concerns a serious collective achievement. I speak of the fact that Russians categorically do not want to return to the old order; of course, the majority of them do not support all those who are now trying to stir things up, to set themselves up in opposition to the president, the Supreme Soviet, and the government."

Shashkov then refers to a 22 February NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA article on the results of "RF-Politika

Center" research on opposition to the government and asks Burbulis whether opposition to the government is now coming from the "nomenklatura" and from within the government apparatus. Burbulis replies: "Yes, there is an environment in which the nomenklatura holds considerable influence but which is not necessarily connected with the civil service. It is all those who have grown up in the party nomenklatura setting. Their feathers have been ruffled, as it were, for one reason. Whatever difficulties may face the reforms, whatever position the population finds itself in, we remain convinced of the possibility of carrying them out effectively and of achieving worthy results. This threat that President Yeltsin and all of us might end up with a normal life worthy of a human being and that people are beginning already to settle down more actively to this practical process, is stimulating and organizing this environment, and it is, of course, hindering us but not to such an extent that they need to be considered as our main opponent today." Shashkov asks if they are a "real threat," to which Burbulis replies: "A threat which is not serious enough for their influence on society to be dramatized."

Asked to comment on the economy in light of his recent trip to Vorkuta, Burbulis notes that the main priorities are to prevent inflation and to set roughly comparable wages across different industries.

Shashkov concludes the interview by asking Burbulis whether reports that Russia plans to form its own army are true, to which Burbulis replies: "What we have today in the combined armed forces is quite enough for there to be no need to put the population to extra expense by creating our own armed forces immediately and at any price. The Russian president's credo is that we will be the last in the CIS to create our own army and will bear full responsibility for the current process. It remains our principle for today. The discussions in the mass media are not groundless, I think, and it is entirely possible that there could be a Defense Ministry with civil and political functions which would work with other so-called power ministries to guarantee Russia's security strategy; which would protect enterprises of yesterday's defense industry from light-weight conversion and thus save the technological potential of those enterprises; which would help formulate our international policy concerning security tasks. With all due respect to the military, they should not resolve such issues on their own."

At 1750 GMT, Burbulis ends the program with a few patriotic words, adding that the Russian army's fate will depend upon the stability of the political situation, which he advises is in everyone's hands.

Gaydar Interviewed on Economic Reform's Progress

PM2402144192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Feb 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Interview with Vice Premier Yegor Gaydar by Mikhail Berger; place and date not given: "My Optimism Is Well-Founded, Yegor Gaydar Claims"]

[Text] [Berger] Yegor Timurovich, you and your team recently passed the first designated boundary, the first marker—100 days. No special congratulations came your way as far as I know, and the chances of a rapid upsurge of sympathies for the government are still quite uncertain. Above all, in this time you have already managed to accumulate more baggage in the form of new problems and, what seems especially dangerous to me personally, compromises and concessions in your declared policy. We could argue about the pace of price hikes and the continued slump in production using various calculation methods, but the fact that both have acquired unprecedented dimensions is indisputable. Apart from that, you have embarked upon a series of compromises—for example, the miners only had to threaten a strike to obtain repeated wage increases. There can be no doubt that other professional groups will gear themselves—indeed, do gear themselves—toward the miners' level of income and their pressure tactics. If such pressure succeeds, we will never curb inflation, which means that your efforts and society's sacrifices could all turn out to be in vain. But you continue to comment upon events with unfailing and even growing optimism. I, for one, am a little wary of this—frightened, even.

[Gaydar] There is no need to be frightened, and especially not on account of my optimism. It is not connected with the fact that prices have increased five- or 10-fold instead of, say, 40- or 50-fold. Serious problems—the most serious problems—are still ahead. Moreover, like the horizon, they are always ahead. My optimism is not connected with the onset of an easy, plentiful era: The immediate future will be equally hard. My optimism stems from the fact that we are moving from one difficult task to another in perfect accordance with logic. Without undertaking to resolve the first—the freeing of prices—we will not move on to the second and third, in which case the situation would indeed be fatal. As it is, the situation has ceased to be hopeless.

Yes, prices have soared, but in the prevailing situation it would have been odd to expect otherwise. But the fact that price liberalization did not entail high day-to-day inflation is a very reassuring sign.

The slump and even complete halt of certain production units is a wholly natural reaction to the austere monetary policy. That is, we undertook quite consciously to cure inflation via a deflationary shock. If we manage to introduce powerful monetary constraints, then production will base itself upon them and sometimes even pick up. The fact that complaints arise over the shortage of cash and the fear of a halt in production which this entails constitutes a reliable signal that we are conducting the right monetary policy. I understand that deep cuts have to be made, but this means that we are cutting in the right place.

[Berger] As if to avoid cutting out the stomach to reach the appendix.

[Gaydar] I do not think there is any danger of that, but we could turn out to be fatally late in operating. We must keep a steady hand to finish the operation, but that hand is being constantly jolted from various sides. Take a look at this tearful—or angry—letter from the manager of one of St. Petersburg's largest enterprise: It is in trouble, money is short... No doubt, after the liberalization many people resolved to pump up prices so as to increase wages. Then very soon it becomes clear that there is no particular hurry to purchase goods at commercial prices. Those who have purchased goods cannot settle their accounts, and there is nothing left with which to pay their own suppliers. And there is not enough money to increase wages. There is only one way out—to grant free credit. But the whole point is that we are doing everything possible to bring about a money shortage so that demand for it will increase in order to purchase raw materials, and wages could be increased within the confines of what is earned. Or, if you have already obtained credit at expensive market prices, this means that you have to work even harder to settle your accounts and stop relying on parliament or the government to write the debts off.

The main point now is not to give in to pressure or loosen the financial constraints, and not to allow anybody to "bribe" the Central Bank and force it to keep giving out cheap credit.

[Berger] But you yourself yielded by agreeing to repeated wage increases for the miners. There can be no doubt that other sector representatives will gear themselves to the miners' wage levels and pressure tactics. This will inevitably prompt a wage-prices war, and all the sacrifices in the first few weeks of liberalization will be in vain.

[Gaydar] The miners' situation is special. First, coal prices have remained under state control and we have in no way compensated the miners for the price liberalization in other spheres. Second, this is the most pivotal sector—particularly in winter. To risk a strike in such a situation is to knowingly condemn oneself to failure. Intractable firmness could only have been shown in two cases: either from excessive strength, or from weakness of mind. We do not have the former, and I hope we do not have the latter either. So compromising with the miners was a fully justifiable measure.

[Berger] Alongside sectoral pressure, regional pressure is also emerging which, should it succeed, will lead to the removal of major territories from general economic politics. Special economic conditions were granted to Karelia and the Republic of Komi; the major oblasts designated to become free economic zones are claiming tax benefits. Individual regions are ignoring central authority decisions. Buryatia, as far as I know, abolished value-added tax on its territory 20 January, and the Sakhalin authorities are contesting a decision by a government commission on the results of an international tender for the right to control the continental shelf.

[Gaydar] Let me begin with the continental shelf, as this is a special question. We realized that any decision on this, Russia's first civilized tender, would be challenged immediately—the interests therein are too great. I believe that the decision by the government commission was objective—the winner turned out to be the international consortium MacDermott, Marathon, and Mitsui—and final. Of course, this does not prevent parliament from verifying the grounds for the government commission's decision.

As for the principle involved in regional problems, it is a highly tempting prospect to obtain one-sided benefits and exclusive rights, which is highly attractive for local authorities, but I hope nobody is that simplistic. The very same Buryatia, having abolished value-added tax, has applied for subsidies. The decisions involving Karelia, Komi, and the free economic zones were adopted over two years ago in completely different economic and political conditions. Of course, we have to take them into account, but we are doing everything possible to ensure that any rule-bending, if it cannot be avoided altogether, is not destructive in nature or scale.

[Berger] Are you not afraid that monopoly will ultimately lead to the kind of price hikes which will kill off demand for many goods and services and that this will inevitably lead to the further curtailment of production?

[Gaydar] Everything you have mentioned, and everything which remains outside your list of fears, is fully realistic. But nobody said that it would be easy and safe to implement economic reform in our conditions. We are moving in a direction which has been tried and tested by world experience, and at the same time we are trying as far as possible to avoid mistakes and soften the possibly difficult consequences of various measures. We do not always succeed, but already there are significant grounds to say that the overall strategy was well chosen.

It is liberalization which allows us to identify monopolists without error, and to engage in active battle with them. Tell me, how could we have fought Aeroflot's monopoly previously? By artificially creating "Aeroflot II?" Today, Aeroflot, with the natural flippancy of a monopolist, increased ticket prices sky-high and has ended up on the brink of financial collapse. Now it no longer raises the question of further increases in ticket prices, realizing that profits will only decrease as a result of this. Limited demand is already forcing it to look for market solutions to problems.

The liberalization and the austere financial policy being conducted have led to the ruble [R]—which many people had already given up on—starting to show signs of life, and how! The ruble's value rose sharply on the Moscow Currency Exchange 18 February: The dollar's price dropped from R210 to R170. The Central Bank could have reduced the dollar's market rate to R100, but the black market is having problems selling currency even at this price [R170]. Would anybody have believed this even a month ago?

[Berger] The previous, unthinkably high rate was, in many ways, hysterical. Today's fall in the dollar's rate at our currency market also has a somewhat shaky basis.

[Gaydar] I am firmly convinced that this trend, under every possible market fluctuation in the rate, will persist and that the dollar's ruble value will continue to fall.

Rutskoy Urges Halt to Coup Investigation

LD2302100192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Text] Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy has called for a halt to the investigation into the leaders of the coup and for all the accused to be set free. In his latest interview, this one to the Spanish newspaper LA VANGUARDIA, he said the affair is raising the public temperature. It is better not to create precedents that could have unpredictable consequences, commented Rutskoy. There should, of course, be some kind of punishment but from the standpoint of morality, in my opinion, they have already paid a very severe penalty.

Yeltsin Signs Decree To Stabilize Industries

OW2102202192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1915 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin has signed a decree for 1992 to stabilize the republican industries. The President says it is expedient to preserve all current economic ties and enforce the agreements between CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] member-states.

The decree provides for special control of "enterprises and organizations responsible for monopolist activities." This implies the mandatory restoration of the established economic ties, government control of prices and mandatory distribution of products; mandatory supplies of part of the manufactures to the state reserve at controlled government prices; the abolition of all types of government support, including subsidies and credits on lax terms; the abrogation of contracts with the managers of government- run industries; and reorganization of enterprises responsible for monopolist abuse in the market.

The Russian parliament's commission for the day-to-day control of resources supply has been asked to present its ideas of controlling the operation of monopolist manufacturers to the Cabinet within a week's time.

The Presidential decree obliges the Hard Currency Economics Council of Russia to look into 1992 import plans.

Yeltsin Issues Decree on Union State Awards

LD2202135692 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0100 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] I will open this bulletin with a decree by the president of the Russian Federation on citizens of the Russian Federation decorated with state awards of the Union SSR.

The citizens of the Russian Federation decorated with state awards of the Union SSR enjoy the protection of state bodies of the Russian Federation. Recognizing their services to people, I decree:

First, to reserve for citizens of the Russian Federation decorated with state awards the rights and duties envisaged by the award legislation of the former Union SSR.

Second, commissions on state awards are to ensure that awards of the Union SSR are given to participants in the Great Fatherland War of 1941-45, workers in the rear services, and other citizens of the Russian Federation decorated with awards.

Third, guided by the normative acts adopted previously, to continue the examination of documents on restoring the rights of citizens of the Russian Federation to state awards of the Union SSR, on depriving the citizens of the Russian Federation of these awards, and on issuing copies of awards.

Fourth, the present decree comes into force the moment it is signed. Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin, Moscow, the Kremlin, 20 February.

Economy, Finance Ministries Formed; Heads Named

PM2102160892 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Feb 92 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed, untitled report from "Official Diary" column]

[Text] By decree of the Russian Federation president, with a view to bringing the organizational structure of state administrative organs into line with economic reform measures being implemented at the present stage, a Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy and a Russian Federation Ministry of Finance are formed, on the basis of the Russian Federation Ministry of Economics and Finance. It is deemed necessary that a Committee for Prices be attached to the Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy, and a Committee for Precious Metals and Precious Stones and a Committee for Foreign Investments be attached to the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance.

Yegor Timurovich Gaydar, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Government, is appointed Russian Federation minister of finance, and Andrey Alekseyevich Nechayev is appointed Russian Federation minister of the economy.

Ye.T. Gaydar and A.A. Nechayev are instructed to submit to the Russian Federation Government within two weeks proposals on questions relating to the organization of the said ministries.

Further on New Ministries

OW2402140792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1332 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to IF's [INTERFAX] sources, President Boris Yeltsin has signed a decree transforming the Foreign Economic Relations Committee of the Russian Foreign Ministry into an independent Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations to be led by Petr Aven, who used to be head of the old committee in the capacity of First Deputy Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation.

Another presidential decree divides the Economics and Finance Ministry into two separate ones: the Ministry of Economics and the Ministry of Finance.

The latter structure will be led by Vice-Premier Yegor Gaydar, whose former first deputy Andrey Nechayev will take on control over the Economics Ministry. The same decree proclaims the need to set up a committee on prices within the Economics Ministry, and committees on precious stones and metals and on foreign investment within the Finance Ministry.

Economics Minister Sees 'Production Downturn'

LD2402114292 Moscow TASS in English 1119 GMT 24 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow February 24 TASS—In two months' time, the economy of Russia "will objectively encounter a marked production downturn", Economics Minister Andrey Nechayev told a news conference here today. He was appointed to the post on February 19 by Russian President Boris Yeltsin's decree.

Nechayev explained that this would be brought about by contraction of the money incomes of the population and enterprises that would be faced with a "tough financial crisis". The manufacture of farm machinery will be the first sector to face an "overall production slump", he said.

The minister believes that a production decline will not immediately entail a growing unemployment. He said that reduced working hours would be introduced at enterprises, and a certain proportion of workers would be sent on leaves. Nevertheless, Nechayev did not mention projections about the growth of unemployment and production slump.

In order to avert a massive production slump which, the minister said, signifies a drop of production by more than 50 per cent, the government is prepared to go to a number of taxation and financial privileges for businesses and sectors.

The success of reforms largely depends on an extent to which the government "will succeed in pursuing a sufficiently tough credit- and-monetary and financial policy" and "in holding out under the pressure of individual sectors and social groups that demand higher pay", Nechayev said.

He admitted that, "unfortunately, the pressure is mounting and the government had to make the first concessions—to raise mineworkers' wages."

"There is danger that if mineworkers' demands grow, that would put in jeopardy the entire reform programme" and hyperinflation would possibly ensue, he said, pointing out that mineworkers' demands are being hyped up by a number of quite active political movements. This is extremely dangerous." [no opening quotation mark as received]

Nechayev admitted that, although prices in January 1992 grew, according to various estimates, 3-3.5 times over as compared with December 1991, the prices' leap was 10-12-fold if compared with the beginning of last year. The Government of Russia will "free" the prices of milk soon, he said.

Touching upon bread prices, the minister said that "the price of bread in this country is being given a political colouring. Therefore I do not think that we shall be in a hurry to free bread prices."

Nevertheless, Nechayev said that the lifting of price restrictions on bread is to occur in accordance with the reform programme. "In principle, we shall 'free' the prices of bread but not in the current quarter," he stated.

The minister said the first session of the Russian-German Consultative Council had been held in Bonn recently. The session "succeeded in resolving problems that are being extremely politicised by the German side". This, he said, concerned an increase in the prices of gas supplied from Russia, and 15 ships built on an order placed by the former Soviet Union. The German side will grant an easy-term credit to implement the deal, Nechayev said.

Comments on Monetary Reform

LD2402120692 Moscow TASS in English 1152 GMT 24 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow February 24 TASS—The Government of Russia "is considering a version of transition to free prices of petroleum products by the end of April," the Russian Federation's Economics Minister Andrey Nechayev told a news conference here today.

If the realisation of this measure is accompanied by a tough credit-and-financial and monetary policy being currently pursued by the state, a price rise on the consumer market will not be too high, he said. Government forecasts are that, on the whole, in the second quarter of this year, prices may double compared with the present level.

Nechaycv described the currently steady growth of the market rate of the rouble against the dollar as one of "appreciable successes of the government".

"It is gratifying that this process began without serious currency interventions on the part of the Central Bank of Russia. In due course, the Central Bank will intensify its activity at currency auctions and stock exchanges and the rate of the dollar will normalise.

"We expect that the rate of the rouble will soon grow up to 50 roubles per dollar in cash turnover, and this tendency will keep on. We are interested in bringing the rate down to 20-25 roubles per dollar," the minister said.

Nechayev told journalists he was even prepared to bet that the rouble would not decline to a rate of 300 roubles per dollar, as some Moscow economists maintain. Nevertheless, he admitted that the rate of the rouble would possibly somewhat decline when the Russian economy changes over to free prices of petroleum products.

Asked about a possible monetary reform in Russia, the minister said the government did not consider it as an element designed to stabilise the economy if a confiscatory monetary reform is meant.

"We consider the possibility of a monetary reform as a protective measure in the event of the introduction of separate national currencies, primarily by Ukraine" and as a means to adjust for inflation, he said.

Nevertheless, Nechayev admitted that Russia would have to replace the money sooner or later because it is the banknotes of the former Soviet Union—a state which no longer exists—continue circulating throughout Russia's territory. [sentence as received]

He emphasised that the Russian Government would like to replace the banknotes throughout the entire rouble space, "without introducing Russia's (?own) currency".

Khasbulatov, Sobchak Cite Inconsistent Policy

MK2102141792 Moscow ROSSIYA in Russian No 8 19-25 Feb 92 p 1-2

[Interview with R. Khasbulatov, chairman of Supreme Soviet Presidium, and A. Sobchak (St. Petersburg mayor) by Larisa Usova; place and date not given: "You Do Not Change Horses in Midstream"]

[Excerpt] Some 90 percent of the Russian population today are living below the poverty line. The decline in production had reached 15 percent by February. Many people are calling "Gaydar's" reforms "economic genocide." While others, on the other hand, are accusing the government of not being radical enough and moving backward. The parliament is demanding that the population's social security be ensured and privatization speeded up. The soviets in turn are making demands on the parliament: that the resolution of economic issues be transferred to the local level.

A meeting of soviet leaders was devoted to discussing these problems. It was held in St. Petersburg. R. Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Presidium; S. Filatov, his first deputy; A. Shokhin, deputy chairman of the Russian Government; A. Chubays, chairman of the Goskomimushchestva [state property commitee: precise expansion unknown]; and others took part in it. I succeeded in talking to some of the conference participants.

[Khasbulatov] Three weeks ago I made concrete proposals on amending the reforms. Members of the government and the press gave them a hostile reception—this was, supposedly, a move backward. They forgot that we adopted a whole package of laws for reform at the session arbitrarily and agreed that if circumstances demanded we would amend them. Thank God, the president saw the need for this himself. But our government regrettably takes a superficial view of the president's orders. I would finally like them to have a sense of responsibility. Instead of this there is a kind of bravado: Nothing terrible is happening, they say: We planned it this way. Should we not believe our eyes? Yegor Gaydar did not even come to the conference this time, and Chubays and Shokhin "stood in" for him as best they could. As of April they are to start the second phase of reform, we were told here. And the first phase has not even started yet! They have taken the ideas of the Chicago school and tried to combine them with Ryzhkov's and Pavlov's reform—that's it, nothing more. If only they had embarked on analyzing the results and the mistakes made. No, they are confident that they are doing everything right. Nothing else remains now but for us to break the deadlock together. The government will be supported by the Supreme Soviet—we are not demanding that it resign. But we will cooperate provided that a constructive program emerges. At present I cannot see one.

[Sobchak] I believe in the success of the reform, but I have already said a great deal about what changes should be made. Namely a number of economic measures linked with changing tax policy. What is more, I think that monetary compensation should not be paid after all these questions are ratified by the Supreme Soviet, but at the same time—a fixed sum, amended monthly depending on the change in prices. Incidentally, the government agreed to many of the proposals. In particular, a 200-ruble compensation will be introduced before the end of February. But criticism of the government must be constructive. Regrettably, many people are rejecting the reform today but offering no solutions in exchange. I refer, in particular, to A. Rutskoy's statement

at the congress of civil and patriotic forces in Moscow. These relations between the president and the vice president are quite inadmissible. If Rutskoy today hews to views that are diametrically opposed to the president's views, he should resign. The current situation is abnormal for any civilized country.

[Usova] Is the parliamentary leadership's pressure on the government, in your opinion, constructive rather than populist?

[Sobchak] I personally do not think that it is populist. Khasbulatov is an ordinary scientist with developed [slozhivshiysya] economic views. So, his policy in this sphere is fairly well thought-out. Besides, he has reasons for being concerned: Strained relations between the legislative and the executive are developing today at all levels. Is it conceivable to have two legislative systems within a single state? We also have two apparatuses within the administration today: the presidential and the government apparatus. Moreover, the presidential apparatus has several times more power and influence, just as it is numerically superior. Moreover, representatives of each apparatus often espouse different ideological positions. The presidential apparatus has frequently torpedoed government decisions and undertakings. Thus the criticism being leveled at the government today relates more to the presidential apparatus. I am amazed at the parliament's position here: It is not controlling this structure at all. The government has been left one-on-one with the presidential apparatus and does not always win. [passage omitted]

Minister Cited on 'Unconstitutional Bodies'

LD2102215892 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Video report by correspondent S. Yegorov, and interview with Justice Minister Nikolay Fedorov; place and date not given; from the "Novosti" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Yegorov] Russian Justice Minister Nikolay Fedorov has shared his concern with journalists over unconstitutional bodies in the structure of state power, which are gathering momentum. The minister considers the president's state legal administration to be one example of legal excess, imbued with practically unlimitied powers.

[Video shows Fedorov talking to correspondents] Do you not consider that in the future the creation of a presidential state legal administration can totally supplant other juridical services, including the Justice Ministry?

[Fedorov] Without doubt. This is crystal clear. This process has practically already occurred. If accord is not reached between the justice minister and the president, and this practice is not discontinued, then the existence of the Russian Federation Justice Ministry becomes pointless. It will be swallowed up with all its powers—lock, stock, and barrel. It will be swallowed up by this unconstitutional, unaccountable, functionaries' mechanism. Assessments by myself, our experts, and independent scholars who we are calling in, coincide with your assumptions. Alas.

Tripartite Commission Meets To Discuss Labor

LD2102215192 Moscow TASS in English 1905 GMT 21 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Yegorov]

[Text] Moscow February 21 TASS—Russian Vice-Premier Aleksandr Shokhin described the current economic situation in the republic as crisis but not hopeless, speaking at today's regular meeting of the Russian Tripartite Commission on the settlement of labor disputes.

The commission met to discuss a draft general agreement between the Russian Government, trade unions and entrepreneurs for the year of 1992, which has not been signed yet. However, it began the meeting with estimating the initial stage of the economic reforms and government measures of social protection of the Russians under market conditions.

In the opinion of the vice-premier, the situation in finances and money circulation is developing on "a more optimistic script that it has been expected." After a sharp price leap early in January a tendency towards price lowering has shaped up, although prices on goods and services remain high.

The government, which failed to take forestalling measures before the price liberalization, is now trying to ease the situation at the consumer market. This primarily concerns help to pensioners and other socially vulnerable population layers.

Participants in the meeting estimated the draft general agreement prepared by the joint working group from the position of Russian citizens expecting the government, trade unions and entrepreneurs to take cardinal decisions on the settlement of social problems.

The draft was described as too declarative and abstract. They said it does not give a clear prospect for overcoming the social and economic crisis. Members of the Tripartite Commission instructed the working group to improve the draft within a week.

Commission members were satisfied with the successive completion of negotiations between the Russian Government and the Federation of Air Traffic Controllers' Trade Unions, which resulted in the cancellation of air traffic controllers' strike scheduled for February 21.

Aide Views Interior Ministry Reorganization

MK2102132592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Feb 92 p 2

[Interview with Vyacheslav Komissarov, first deputy internal affairs minister, by Vladimir Zadera; place and date not given: "MVD: Latest Reorganization at Russian MVD. Vyacheslav Komissarov, First Deputy Internal Affairs Minister, Comments on Changes in Russian MVD in Upper Echelon of Management"]

[Text] [Zadera] Despite the Russian Constitutional Court's decision regarding the illegality of merging the Russian Federal Security Agency and the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs], the appointments made in this connection were not canceled— there was just a lateral movement [rokirovka] of the key figures. In effect the former Union MVD structure is reorganizing the Russian MVD... In your view, how does this conform to the court's decision?

[Komissarov] The president has issued a new decree confirming his choice, so the Constitutional Court's decision has not been contravened. It can only be a question of the political or ethical formulation of the reasons for these appointments.

A government resolution signed by Boris Yeltsin 19 December 1991 instructed the Russian MVD to reorganize and wind up the Union ministry and use the released personnel in the interests of the Russian MVD. However, this document was only valid for a few hours and was replaced by the unfortunate decision to set up the Ministry of Security and Internal Affairs.

Evidently, it is a question of personalities: Viktor Barannikov and Viktor Yerin, who were previously in charge of the Russian MVD, found themselves for some time at the helm of the Union MVD. Evidently, the president has great confidence in them.

[Zadera] After spending just three months in your post you found yourself off the staff. Do they not trust you, or do you have some professional failings?

[Komissarov] In accordance with a long-standing, quite natural procedure the new minister selects his own team on coordination with the government. I find it hard to see why I was not included on it.

It is quite possible that one of the reasons might have been the stance that I espoused during the well-known events in Checheno-Ingushetia, which originally differed from that espoused by some of Russia's leaders. At any rate a number of officials who were sent to Chechnya at the time (including some from the former FSA) are also in "limbo" now. Incidentally, a Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet commission was set up to investigate that situation, although things were confined to that.

I spent almost half of the three months working in Groznyy and Vladikavkaz. Nonetheless within two months a concept for a criminal militia, and proposals to strengthen militia organs in the North Caucasus, to set up a special ministry directorate to deal with that region, and to strengthen subunits fighting organized crime were prepared with expert help; a draft regulation on strengthening duty service was formulated, amendments were made to the law on operational investigation activity, and a directive was prepared on the personnel's actions in emergencies.

[Zadera] Could one not suppose that your removal is the culmination of a political maneuver aiming to bypass implementation of the Moscow Soviet's "deputy's mandate," which everyone remembers for its insistence regarding your appointment as leader of the Moscow militia?

[Komissarov] As first deputy minister I said that if at some stage Moscow deputies and the capital's government thought it right to return to my candidacy, regardless of the post I occupied within the Russian MVD structure, I would consider it my duty to do the Moscow deputies' will. And my position has not changed.

[Zadera] What can you say about the professionalism of the leadership selected by General Yerin?

[Komissarov] His choice has not been successful and right in all areas. But if the new minister succeeds in withstanding the onslaught of the "lobby" from certain members of the presidential entourage and, moreover, the government-parliamentary lobby, it will be a pretty competent team.

[Zadera] Suppose you stay in the Russian MVD leadership. What would you do to add to the existing MVD structure?

[Komissarov] I regret that the work of setting up a criminal militia has not been completed. Considerable effort and money are being diverted into averting social and ethnic conflicts. A professional group should tackle this. In my view, a powerful directorate should be set up to forecast, avert, and, if necessary, suppress social or ethnic conflicts and anticonstitutional and antisocial group demonstrations.

Finally, an important area should be the work of creating an economic security service whose activity would focus on the fight against corruption and the protection of the new market structures and private entrepreneurs.

[Zadera] Some liberal politicians are shutting their eyes to the problem of corruption—they see it as one of the necessary factors for initial accumulation of capital, a permissible "liberty" [lyuft] without which the economy will be unable to function.

[Komissarov] But corruption is threatening to become one of the most serious primers of public indignation. If, to reword the well-known expression, the law does not prevail and the state even collapses, those people who entertain the principle of "expediency being above the law" are doomed.

[Zadera] Western political scientists predict that next century the main problems of democracy and human rights will be concentrated in the economic sphere.

[Komissarov] The signs of this are obvious in our country too: New kinds of organized economic crime have appeared in the last year.

A future federal economic security agency could in my view start its activity with informational control over the implementation of legislation regulating financial relations in enterprise, the implementation of privatization, and taxation. This would step up the activity of law-enforcement organs. This subunit could formulate stable anticorruption mechanisms in the future.

Text of Decree on Servicemen's Protection

PM2402114592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Feb 92 p 1

["Concern for Defenders of Fatherland Assumes Specific Content—Russian Federation President's Decree On Measures to Enhance Social Protection of Servicemen and Persons Discharged from Military Service"—KRASNAYA ZVEZDA headline]

[Text] With a view to enhancing the social protection of servicemen and persons discharged from military service, and ensuring proper conditions for the performance of military service duties, I DECREE:

1. That as from 1 February 1992 minimum official salaries for the lowest officer ranks in the Armed Forces (platoon commander and corresponding posts) be set at 1,800 rubles [R] per month.

The size of official salaries of members of the officer corps, ensigns, warrant officers, and the main standard posts of servicemen doing extended military service be approved proceeding from the minimum official salaries laid down in this decree.

Indexation of the financial allowance payable to servicemen in connection with rising retail prices and tariffs be carried out in accordance with the established procedure.

2. In the event of servicemen's discharge from compulsory military service, a one-shot allowance of R500 is payable, and of R2,000 to persons in this category who are orphans or without parental care.

3. The Government of the Russian Federation, governments of republics within the Russian Federation, and executive organs of krays, oblasts, autonomous entities, and the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg are instructed to make good within the first half of 1992 any outstanding liabilities in the allocation of housing to servicemen, including proportionate allocation for participation in housing construction.

4. Rented housing in state and departmental housing stock buildings is to be handed over free of charge to members of the officer corps, ensigns, warrant officers, and extended military service servicemen who have served 20 or more calendar years, and persons discharged from military service due to age, sickness, staff cuts, or impaired health after 20 or more calendar years of service, and to war veterans, internationalist servicemen, and family members of servicemen who were killed or died as a result of their wounds, shell shock, mutilation, or sickness resulting from military service duties.

5. Financial compensation for the sublease (lease) of temporary housing to members of the officer corps, ensigns, warrant officers, and extended military service servicemen who do not have permanent housing is to be increased to up to R300 per month, or up to R350 per month in the case of persons with families of more than three members (depending on where they live).

6. It is laid down that serving members of the officer corps, ensigns, warrant officers, and extended military service servicemen, and those who have been discharged from service due to age, sickness, staff cuts, or impaired health, with 20 or more calendar years of service will pay for housing occupied by them and members of their families who are living with them in state and departmental housing stock buildings and for municipal services at a rate of 50 percent.

7. Financial assistance covering 50 percent of the cost of cooperative housing or bank credits obtained for the construction of individual housing is to be paid at the place of service to servicemen with irreproachable continuous service of 15 or more calendar years who do not have housing or need to improve their housing conditions and have joined housing-construction (or housing) cooperatives or are in the process of building individual housing.

8. Servicemen and people discharged from military service due to age, sickness, staff cuts, or impared health with 15 or more calendar years of service, and also war veterans, internationalist servicemen, and family members of servicemen who were killed or died as a result of their wounds, shell shock, mutilation, or sickness resulting from military service duties are to receive, free of charge, plots of land for individual housing construction and horticultural and vegetable-growing purposes of 0.10 hectares in urban settlements and 0.25 hectares in the countryside.

Servicemen who receive plots of land for individual housing construction under this decree will be exempt from the proportion of the land tax payable into the republican budget of the Russian Federation.

9. All categories of servicemen are to be exempt from paying income tax on the cost-of-living allowance, financial compensations, and other payments which they receive in connection with performing military service duties.

10. The Government of the Russian Federation is instructed within one month:

to determine the rates of financial compensation for special conditions of service, proficiency ratings, and additional financial allowances of an incentive nature;

to elaborate the procedure for granting free-of-charge financial assistance to servicemen for the acquisition of housing, and the procedure for monitoring that the allocated means are used for the intended purpose;

to submit proposals:

on the procedure for granting tax allowances to servicemen and persons discharged from military service in connection with the housing privatization;

on raising in 1992 rates of pay and salaries of military unit, enterprise, organization, institution, and military-training establishment workers and employees;

and on amendments and additions to existing legislation ensuing from this decree.

11. The decree comes into force from the moment it is signed.

[signed] B. Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation

[dated] Moscow, The Kremlin, 19 February 1992

Food Production Predicted 'To Drop Noticeably'

LD2402144392 Moscow TASS in English 1334 GMT 24 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Dzyublo]

[Text] Moscow February 24 TASS—"The output of food products in the Russian Federation is expected to drop noticeably in the first quarter of the year," says a statement by the Russian Statistics Committee released here today.

It predicts that the amounts of food, especially meat and dairy products, vegetable oil, sugar, cereals and baby foods, planned for the population can be expected to further diminish. It will be difficult to purchase them even for the new, relatively high prices.

This statistical forecast is based on agreements concluded with enterprises of the Russia Ministry of Agriculture for the supply of food products in exchange for material-technical resources in 1992. Only seven per cent of the volume of necessary food deliveries to the state are guaranteed by the agreements concluded so far with collective and state farms, as well as with other agricultural enterprises.

Jan 92 Economic Results Summed Up

PM2402111192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Feb 92 Morning Edition p 3

[Irina Demchenko report under the "Statistics" rubric as part of "IZVESTIYA-INTERFAX Commercial Review": "Incomes Fell 40 Percent"]

[Text] Last Monday the Russian Government was able to familiarize itself with the report "Basic Indicators of the Russian Federation Economy in January 1992" by the republic's Goskomstat [State Committee for Statistics]. This is one of the main documents on which the Russian Government's future calculations are based. The report attests that the living standards of the republic's population fell significantly during the first month following the price liberalization.

Incomes

In January the population's monetary incomes totaled 119.2 billion rubles [R]. This was 2.5 percent less than in December 1991 but, taking a correction for the January price rises into account, the level of real incomes amounted to less than 40 percent [as published] of the December incomes.

The excess of the population's monetary incomes over expenditure amounted to R16.6 billion. By 1 February the inhabitants of Russia had R178.7 billion left in their hands.

The scarcity of ready cash persisted. Precisely 20.4 percent of the Russian national economy's requirement for ready cash was met by means of an emission in January (employees of the Russian Federation Goskomstat maintain that this figure in money terms is one of "the indicators not meant for the press"). According to operational data of the republic's Central Bank, as of 1 February the arrears in respect of the issuing of money from bank cash desks for wages in Russia exceeded R19 billion.

Expenditure on Food

In January, compared with December, the cost of foodstuffs in Russia as a whole increased by an average of 300 percent[1], but the prices of individual products increased 400-900 percent in state trade. Their strongest rise was in between 10 and 20 January. According to official data, fixed prices in the republic were, on average, at the level of the maximum coefficients, but in some places they were considerably in excess of them. Milk in Leningrad and Nizhniy Novgorod Oblasts and in such traditional "dairy" oblasts as Ivanovo and Yaroslavl Oblasts cost R5-6 a liter, and R8-10 in Chelyabinsk Oblast and Maritime Kray. The prices of vegetable oil in Murmansk, Chelyabinsk, and Penza Oblasts exceeded the guaranteed "ceiling" by 200-300 percent. In Sakhalin vegetable oil cost R100.

By the end of January the price of sour cream had fallen to R35-45 in certain regions because of a drop in sales.

but in other regions—Astrakhan and Volgograd Oblasts—it remained at the level of R60-70, and in Magadan at R147. The price of butter stayed, on average, at the R120-150 mark, but in West and East Siberia it cost R200 and more in state trade.

The price of meat increased sharply between 10 and 20 January, but after 20 January, the report states, a slump in prices was noted on one-fourth of the territory of Russia, and an increase on one-third of the territory. The report does not state what happened over the remaining 45 percent of the republic's area.

The Russian Federation Goskomstat warns that, in the event of the liberalization of fixed prices for foodstuffs, the cost of butter cannot be less than R100, and beef R65.

During the year (from January 1991 through February 1992) production of meat, whole milk products, groats, and confectionery products in the republic fell by 31-46 percent, that of margarine fell 23 percent, and tea fell 16 percent.

For some reason the Goskomstat does not give the cost of a consumer basket for a family of four (husband, wife, and two children) in January, but it forecasts that it could reach R1,300-1,500 per capita in February-March. Of course, this indicator will vary, depending on the regions—thus, according to Moscow City Statistics Committee data, it already exceeded this value in Moscow in January.

Expenditure on Clothing and Footwear

The practical sale of industrial goods at free prices began only in the second half of January. Retail commodity turnover during January fell 71 percent in comparable prices and amounted to R74 billion. At the same time R66 billion (89 percent) of this volume was taken up with the population's additional expenditure because of the rise in the prices of goods.

Production of consumer goods fell 11-23 percent.

The prices of industrial goods increased sharply. According to statistical data, a woman's winter coat is most expensive in Saratov (R8,000) and least expensive in Krasnoyarsk (R4,000). The sharp increase in the prices of industrial goods is approximately 40 percent due to the increase in the prices of raw materials and a further 40 percent due to the introduction of value-added tax and the increase in the size of trade markups.

Expenditure on Consumer Durables

In January there was a considerable drop—9-23 percent—in production of cultural-domestic and household goods: radio receivers, television sets, motorcycles, vacuum cleaners, refrigerators, tape recorders. Production of household and toilet soap and synthetic detergents fell 22-36 percent.

Ties between producers and state trade are being disrupted. Contracts for the supply of output to trade have been concluded for just 20-30 percent of the requirement for domestic radio equipment, but even these are not being fulfilled. The bulk of the output is sold through commercial structures, mainly through trade houses, or is used in barter exchanges with other enterprises.

Expenditure on Children

In this sphere the report contains the minimum of data. Nevertheless, the report points to a substantial reduction in the production of the foodstuffs needed in a child's food allowance: The production volumes of children's food by Russian industry do not provide more than one-fourth of the consumption norm per child. Trade's requirement for supplies of dry children's foodstuffs is met just one-third. Children's requirement for canned meat products is met no more than 10 percent.

The report cites the prices of certain kinds of children's goods in cities of the Russian Federation: In Tula part-wool dresses for girls cost R156, cotton dresses R105-112, and artificial fur coats R700. In Kirov winter boots for children cost R160-250, and shoes cost R102-116. The report cautiously states that the population has a particularly painful perception of the prices of the children's range of goods, although this assessment does not, of course, reflect the real picture of public perception. Size-17 Russian-made winter boots cost R300-500 in state trade in Moscow, sandals cost R105-120, and "Druzhok" bicycles cost R888.

Expenditure on Various Services

The physical volumes of paid services fell significantly (by an average of almost one-half over the year, and by 70 percent in consumer services). Every second client refuses services because of high prices. The cost of services increased 130 percent during January alone.

The cost of laundering underwear increased 400-500 percent, and that of dry cleaning 300-400 percent. The replacement of shoe heels now costs R10-12, while a fashionable hairdo and permanent wave costs R70-100.

The cost of ritual services increased sharply. The price of funeral appurtenances went up 200-400 percent. The so-called "funeral ritual object"—the coffin—cost R150-170 in Moscow last year, but now costs R450; the corresponding figures in Ryazan are R70 and R376; in Voronezh R90 and R365; in Rostov-na-Donu R50-70 and R252. There has been a significant increase in the cost of burial services and motor transport services, particularly in Moscow. In St. Petersburg compensation to the tune of R1,175 is being set aside for funerals by decision of the City Hall.

Expenditure on Transport and Communications

The cost of passenger transport increased 124 percent during January, and expenditure on communications increased 177 percent.

The demand for intercity passenger operations fell appreciably, but it is still not being met in full. It is hardest of all to fly. Passenger turnover in air transport fell 24 percent between January of last year and February of this, and conveyance of bus passengers fell 7 percent. Journeys by suburban and inner-city transport are constantly being canceled—the reduction reaches 20-30 percent.

The development of the situation on the consumer market in January and the first half of February inspires some hope that the promises of the Russian political leaders might be realized: Consumer goods are appearing on sale, albeit at high prices, and the exchange rate for the ruble against the dollar has fallen and is continuing to fall. At the same time account must be taken of the fact that too little time has passed to try to speak of any trends. The most serious factor is the constant and very sharp fall in production, which it is not proving possible to halt.

Many processes are still of a psychological nature, rather than an economic one. For example, certain goods, particularly foodstuffs, which are not elastic in terms of price and which were not being bought at the beginning of January, are being bought up even at higher prices in February.

If the government really frees the fixed prices of oil and coal in the very near future, as it is planning to do, or at least increases them, a new price hike awaits us. It could be severalfold the growth in the prices for energy carriers. But, to all appearances, it is not prices but unemployment that will be the chief problem in two or three months' time.

Footnote

1. The Goskomstat took the prices index as the composite indicator of prices in state trade, in the market, and in cooperative trade. When analyzing this indicator, account must be taken of the fact that prices in the markets rose very smoothly, and their increase was considerably smaller than in state trade. Prices in cooperative stores in general increased only to values corresponding to prices in state trade.

Regional Affairs

Burbulis on Official Visit to Komi Republic

Talks With Vorkuta Committees

OW2102182992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1645 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister Gennadiy Burbulis has begun negotiations with the local coordinating council of strike committees in Vorkuta. The council says that it unites in the first place the employees of government-financed industries and organizations. The strikers are pressing for higher wages in the wake of price rises. The Coordinating Council has warned it will call a general strike unless the demands are met. Burbulis arrived in Vorkuta Friday [21 February] morning at the council's invitation to seek a settlement. The negotiations are attended by Vorkuta miners' delegates. The coordinating council made no comment on their demands.

Burbulis is reported to have had several rounds of talks already. No results are known yet.

Comments on Pay Raise

LD2202212592 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0746 GMT 22 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Makarov]

[Excerpts] Syktyvkar, 22 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—The decisions adopted in Vorkuta yesterday will make it possible to ease the tense situation in the towns of the Pechora Coal Basin. These accords were reached as a result of the talks and meetings held between members of the Russian Government delegation headed by Gennadiy Burbulis, first deputy chairman of the Russian Government, the leaders of the Komi Soviet Socialist Republic, a polar town, and the regional coordinating strike committee of Vorkuta and Inta.

At a meeting in Vorkuta on Friday [21 February] evening Gennadiy Burbulis declared that the Russian Government is undertaking to find resources from the federal budget to bring the pay of workers in spheres of the economy subject to budget funding into line with the average wage in the coal industry. [passage omitted]

Gennadiy Burbulis admitted that in increasing miners' pay the government had shown a "certain degree of haste" and that it would have been more proper to more exhaustively seek a solution that would have prevented the conflict that has now arisen. He called on all citizens of Russia to help the Government of Russia and its president to implement reforms in order that everyone together can ensure they yield a "fitting result".

Gennadiy Burbulis and his party arrived in Syktyvkar overnight.

Meets With Government, Industrialists

LD2202213892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Report by state correspondent Olga Sergeyeva]

[Excerpts] As already reported, Deputy Prime Minister Gennadiy Burbulis is continuing his tour of the Komi Republic. Here is our correspondent Olga Sergeyeva.

[Sergeyeva] [Passage omitted] In Syktyvkar today, Gennadiy Burbulis met representatives of the Komi Science Center, part of the Academy of Sciences' Urals branch. Komi is rich in resources, yet remains a raw materials

appendage to Russia. The possibility and need for development of the economy's extraction and processing industries were discussed during the meeting. The state secretary does not rule out participation by this republic's scholars and experts in the Russian far-north development strategy. [passage omitted: Burbulis visits paper mill]

A meeting was held with the republic's government and the management of key industries to discuss problems in logistic supplies to raw materials regions, and the need to cultivate economic links within Russia. The government's reform programme is a strategic path from which Russia will not deviate—that was the meeting's main outcome.

This evening, Gennadiy Burbulis returned to Moscow.

Tatar Premier: Republic 'Significant Player'

OW2302095992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1600 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Prime Minister of Tatarstan Mukhammad Sabirov believes that the Republic's geopolitical position, ethnic make-up, and the level, structure and tendency for economic development give it the possibility to "become a significant player in international politics".

Speaking to parliament Friday [21 February] he said he supports strengthening ties with the east and the west simultaneously. Thus, he added, Tatarstan must play a historical role in binding the ties between them. Sabirov said that both directions of cooperation - with the east and west - must be stimulated in every possible way.

Tatarstan Views Relations With Russia

OW2102134292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1030 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A session of the Tatar parliament in Kazan is considering holding a referendum on the republic's status. Soglasiye (Concord), a parliamentary faction, suggested that the question at the proposed referendum be put as follows: "Do you support the Republic of Tatarstan seceding from the Russian Federation or not?" This formula was supported by 97 MPs [members of parliament].

Another parliamentary faction, Tatarstan, suggested a different language: "Do you accept the new Constitution of the Republic of Tatarstan drafted by the Constituitonal Commission of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Tatarstan?"

According to Soglasiye activists, the question concerning the new draft constitution may not be put to a popular vote because it does not provide any alternatives.

Conversely, presidential adviser Rafail Khakimov, a Tatarstan faction supporter, believes the question of Tatarstan's seceding or not from the Russian Federation is legally irrelevant because the republic, founded by a decree, has never been part of the Russian Federation and, consequently, cannot secede from it.

According to Khakimov, declaring independence would signal not a break of mutual relations or a secession from the Russian Federation, but the establishment of new relations with Russia as befits equal states.

The Tatar parliament has set up a conciliatory commission which is to formulate the definitive version of the referendum question.

Recognition of Independence Expected

OW2302100092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1600 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Tatar presidential adviser Rafael Khakimov believes Tatarstan has already left the Russian Federation de facto. It remains only to be formalized legally. The only thing connecting the Republic to Russia is budget matters.

In an interview with Interfax Khakimov said that Russia isn't compelled to recognize Tatarstan but it must take another look at its idea of national-state system.

The Presidential Adviser expects Turkey, Saudia Arabia, and CIS nations to recognize Tatarstan's independence.

According to Khakimov, the March 21 referendum will be easily passed as "the Republic has been on a steady Path toward independence for a year and a half now". He added that a number of economic agreements, primarily with Russia, have already assumed an inter-state character.

Will be Self-Supporting

LD2202132892 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1101 GMT 21 Feb 92

[From the "Domestic Market" section]

[Text] As a result of getting state independence Tatarstan will be able to support itself, says Prime Minister Mukhammat Sabirov.

On February 20, Prime Minister of Tatarstan Mukhammat Sabirov submitted to the Tatarstan Supreme Council session a prognostic analysis of changes in the Republic's political-legal and socio-economic situation following the realization of the basic principles of statehood development. He believes that the aggregate revenues may grow up to R7 billion while expenses will make R6 billion.

Sabirov also claimed Tatarstan's right to its own share in the gold reserve as well as in the diamond and hard

currency funds of the former Soviet Union and stated readiness to recognize their responsibility in paying the foreign debt. He noted the population's concern over the possibility of Tatar oil being blocked but said it was unfounded. I want to reassure those people, as dozens of oil and gas pipelines go through our republic from north to west and all of them have clamps and faucets, he said. According to Ivan Grachev, the leader of the deputies group Narodovlastiye [People's Power], the prime minister has failed to give parliament the necessary information.

Deputies Divided Over Secession

LD2202143192 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 0952 GMT 21 Feb 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] On February 20, Deputies of the Tatarstan Supreme Soviet divided on the issue of holding a referendum. The democratically-minded deputies insisted that the poll should include the question: Are you in favour of Tatarstan's secession from Russia? Deputies affiliated with the parliamentary group Tatarstan described this formulation as provocative and improper. They insist that the referendum vote for a new constitution of Tatarstan wherein no mention should be made of the Russian Federation.

According to a democratic parliamentary group, Soglasie, the people, having voted for the constitution, will be deceived, because they will eventually find themselves outside the Russian Federation's boundaries.

Addressing a conciliation commission, Tatarstan President Shaimiev insisted that the issue of a new constitution be brought up at the March 21 referendum, emphasizing that it was necessary to get ahead of the Russian Parliament. Ivan Grachev, a member of the conciliation commission, told PF: Shaimiev said to is necessary to ensure that Tatarstan delegate part of its jurisdiction to Russia, not the other way round. Otherwise, if the Russian Parliament moves faster than Tatarstan, then the Republic will be deprived even of those rights that it enjoyed as an autonomous republic within the former USSR.

A meeting of the Soglasie group, which was held on February 20, between the morning and evening sessions of parliament, did not allow President Shaimiev to address it. It was expected that Shaimiev would start insisting, as he did at a session of the conciliation commission, that the new constitution should provide for dual citizenship for all those willing to have it, and also issuing guarantees that Russian and Tartar should remain official state languages and that each nation should be guaranteed equal rights.

I am deeply upset by this statement, said Valentin Mikhaylov, a member of the conciliation commission in an interview with PF, because only the Supreme Soviet, as the sole legislative body, can give such guarantees to the people. On February 29, the session will continue discussing the issue of referendum in Tatarstan.

Referendum on 21 Mar

LD2202222992 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1100 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] The Tatarstan Supreme Soviet today decided to hold a referendum on the status of the republic exactly a month from now: on 21 March.

The almost 4 million strong population is to reply to a single question:

Do you agree that the Republic of Tatarstan is a sovereign state, a subject of international law, which is building its relations with the Russian Federation and other republics and states on the basis of equal treaties?

New Daily Newspaper Published in Tatarstan

LD2302194392 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1556 GMT 23 Feb 92

[From the "Politics" section: "First Issue of the DONYA Daily Published in Kazan"—POSTFACTUM headline]

[Text] Kazan [dateline as received]—The first issue of the DONYA (PLANET) newspaper published in Tatar language was sold in Kazan, Tatarstan's capital, on February 22. The newspaper, founded by the Tatar Vatan Society for Relations With Compatriots Abroad, and Tatarstan's Exporters' Association, will cover the life of the Tatar people and promote Tatarstan's international relations and business activity.

The DONYA newspaper will be published simultaneously in Tatar, English and Turkish languages and distributed both in the Commonwealth and abroad. Unlike other Tatar publications, all texts in the DONYA newspaper are set in Roman type, not the cyrillic.

Dudayev, Gamsakhurdia Call for Dialogue

OW2302083592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1350 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Dzhakhar Dudayev, the leader of Chechen-Ingush, and the ousted president of Georgia, Zviad Gamsakhurdia, believe that to solve the conflict in Georgia all political forces should enter into talks on the problem. A joint statement issued on the eve of Gamsakhurdia's departure for Georgia calls on all governments and peoples to start forming a union of Caucasian states. Dudayev and Gamsakhurdia called for a troop pullout from the Caucasian region. An appropriate decision should be taken by the Russian authorities, they said. The press service of the Chechen president declined to confirm or to deny reports about Gamsakhurdia's departure from Groznyy. Reliable sources report that on the night of February 22 Gamsakhurdia flew by helicopter

toward Georgia. He plans to meet leaders of Caucasian nationalist movements, the same sources said. No information about the time or the location of the meeting could be obtained.

Parliament Recommends Dudayev as Cabinet Head

OW2102184592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1645 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Chechen parliament has abolished the Committee on Operational Economic Managemenet of the Chechen Republic as "failing to fulfil the goals of transitional period".

According to the February 20 resolution, the Chechen leader Dzhakhar Dudayev has been recommended to "start performing duties of the head of the Cabinet".

The Chechen parliament passed a law on the Cabinet about two weeks ago. For the moment the government has been almost formed.

Cossacks Follow Chechen Lead in Army Formation

LD2302170192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1200 GMT 23 Feb 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] According to our correspondent, Pavel Guskov, Dzhakhar Dudayev and Zviad Gamsakhurdia have stated an intention to create united armed forces in the Caucasus. New peoples and new territories are becoming involved in this movement. The Chechen Republic was followed by Stavropolskiy Kray. A mass meeting was held there 22 February. Today a Cossack army is being set up.

[Begin Guskov recording] The Cossacks think that the government and the parliament of Russia are obliged to take into consideration the demands of the Slav population while implementing reform in the Northern Caucasus, which in its present version might deprive of their share those Cossacks who have not yet been rehabilitated since the repressions of 1920's. The situation at the meeting became heated by a report on Radio Rossii yesterday that at the talks in Groznyy Dzhakhar Dudayev and Zviad Gamsakhurdia elaborated the draft for setting up a union of Caucasian states with a united armed forces. Stavropolskiy and Kuban krays and Volgograd and Rostov oblasts would be in the zone of their influence. The Cossack mass meeting demanded protection of the interests and security of the Russian-speaking population in the Caucasus. [end recording] [Video shows mass meeting, slogans reading "Demand Rehabilitation of Cossacks!" and "Russia! Cossacks Are Your Border Guards"]

Terek Cossacks 'Will Have To Take Up Arms'

OW2302104892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1600 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "Cossacks have exhausted all legal remedies and will have to take up arms should Russia fail to defend them", Terek Cossacks (called after the river Terek in the Caucasus - IF [INTERFAX]) said in an appeal to the Russian authorities issued February 22 in Vladikavkaz at a general meeting (Krug) attended by leaders of the Kuban Cossack Assembly (Rada) and the Union of Stavropol Region Cossacks. The Cossack discussed problems related to the suppression of the region's Russian population, including Cossacks, by the Chechens.

The appeal demands that the Cossacks be rehabilitated as an estate, a Cossack autonomy be created in the territory of the Chechen Republic, public ownership of land be introduced along with the rule by atamans (Cossack chiefs) in villages etc.

Aleksandr Luganskiy, the ataman of the Naur district of the Terek Cossackship, told IF the Cossacks planned to set up their own military units. Today, as many as five full-blooded Cossack hundreds have been formed in Vladikavkaz. Moreover, about a thousand Cossacks from the village of Arkhonskaya, the Mozdok district etc. have volunteered to serve in vigilance corps of North Ossetia.

Among reasons which prompted the Cossacks to revive their military trade, the ataman listed violence, felonious assaults, killings, incinerations of Cossack houses by the Chechens.

Cossacks Demand Jurisdiction Over Kurils

LD2302225792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] The participants of the Great Council of the Atamans of Cossack Troops, which is being held in Yuzno-Sakhalinsk, have demanded the handover of the Kurils to its jurisdiction. The Cossacks discussed the agenda for economic development of Sakhalin and the Kuril Islands and the possibility of opening a branch of the Central Cossack Trade House there. The issue of developing the natural resources of the Kurils was also discussed by the council so as to completely do without deliveries of fuel from the mainland by 1995.

Army Day Observed in St. Petersburg, Barnaul

LD2302220592 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1755 GMT 23 Feb 92

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Excerpts] Moscow, 23 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—Armed Forces Day was marked in a variety of ways in Russia today. [passage omitted on events in Moscow]

The occasion was marked by a solemn meeting near the monument to the heroic defenders of Leningrad on Victory Square in St. Petersburg today. Representatives of Leningrad Military District and Leningrad naval base, deputies, members of the Society of Residents of the Besieged Town and of the Public Association of War, and labor and armed forces veterans laid flowers at the monument to the defenders of the town.

Around 3,000 people gathered for a rally under the slogan "The Fate of the Army Is the Fate of the People" held at Palace Square. It was organized by the Leningrad Workers' Soviet. The rally opened with the USSR anthem. Speakers were unanimous in their support for the demand voiced at the all-army officers' assembly in January that the unified armed forces be retained. The organizers of the rally refused to allow Nina Andreyeva, general secretary of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolshevik) to speak.

The Russian Communist Workers' Party organization held a solemn meeting "dedicated to the 74th anniversary of the Soviet army and navy" in the town of Barnaul (Altay) today. Those taking part were workers from Barnaul factories, servicemen, and veterans of the Great Patriotic War. They condemned the collapse of the unified Soviet Union and its Armed Forces. The meeting adopted an appeal to 18 people's deputies of the former USSR from Altay (southern Siberia) appealing for support for the initiative of a group of deputies calling for an emergency congress of USSR People's Deputies to be convened on the anniversary of the all-Union referendum on 17 March. [passage omitted on Irkutsk rally]

No Newspapers Printed in Vladimir Oblast

LD2402093592 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Summary] On 24 February, the Vladimir oblast journalists' organization is staging the protest action "A Week Without Press." In the course of seven days, not a single newspaper will be published in the oblast. The reason for this protest is that the oblast's newspapers are literally doomed to ruin. Even a very high price will not rescue the editorials of the newspapers from bankruptcy inasmuch as the prices are dictated by monopolists—enterprises for the production of newspapers, local printing houses, and also Soyuzpechat staff. Not only oblast but also rayon newspapers are becoming inaccessible to readers. Yeltsin's recent decree does not resolve all questions connected with the destiny of newspapers in the regions. In the course of the week, local radio and television will remain the only source of news.

Ulyanov Elected Tyumen Soviet Chairman

PM2402090092 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Feb 92 First Edition p 1

[Report from ITAR-TASS, ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA roundup: "Vladimir Ilich Ulyanov—Soviet Chairman"]

[Text] The firm stance of the "Tyumen" group has put an end to the tiresome disputes among deputies' factions in the oblast soviet over the candidacy for chairman; in a secret ballot, an oblast soviet session now in progress has elected to this post one Vladimir Ilich Ulyanov, who is actively opposed to the splitting of the oblast by a section of the body of deputies with separatist inclinations. A lawyer by education, former prosecutor Vladimir Ilich is not one of those who like chanting the slogan "All power to the soviets" at every step. However, in his opinion, in conditions where the structures of executive authority in the oblast are divided into three parts, the oblast soviet can and must remain the sole consolidating organ.

Khakass Parliament Argues Status of Republic

LD2102183692 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] The confrontation between people's deputies of the parliament of Khakassia has worsened. They have disagreed over the status of the republic. During discussion of drafts of the declaration on state sovereignty, no single view has been worked out on this matter. The debate continues at the second session.

However, bringing today's hearings to an end, (Vladimir Shtygashev), chairman of the supreme soviet of Khakassia, said that sooner or later the Khakass people will implement their right to self-determination. He stated that the failure to pass the declaration prevents him from remaining in the post of chairman of parliament. So far, deputies have not accepted his resignation, stated in terms of an ultimatum, the ITAR-TASS agency reported.

German Region To Be Created in Volgograd

LD2202141792 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 0952 GMT 21 Feb 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] A German ethnic district will be created in Volgograd region. This has been announced by Anatoliy Anikeyev, chairman of the Russian Parliamentary Commission on Deported Peoples, who told PF that his commission is receiving support from the Russian Supreme Soviet Presidium, the Russian President and the Russian State Committee on National Policy in the question of restoring the German Statehood within the Russian Federation.

According to Anikeyev, agreement was reached with the directors of two large state farms in Volvograd oblast on creating a German ethnic district on their territory. The

oblast authorities also agreed to this plan. Next week, employees of these state farms are to hold meetings to discuss the plan. Anikeyev said he hoped they would also agree.

The German ethnic district will be created on the territory of a former testing site which was mentioned by the Russian President in the course of his visit of Saratov oblast. Anikeyev said the Test site was examined by international experts who came to the conclusion that it is absolutely safe.

Anikeyev described the formation of a German district in Volgograd district as the starting point in the restoration of German statehood. According to him, the question of creating a German ethnic district is also being considered in Saratov oblast. Anikeyev said he was in favour of these two districts subsequently merging into one. He expects the decision on the creation of the German district in Volvograd oblast to be adopted by the Russian Parliament

Russian Towns Union Leader on Prices, Elections

LD2402002792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Summary] Valeriy Ryumin, mayor of Ryazan and head of the Union of Russian Towns, drew a rather pessimistic prognosis for the economic situation at a meeting with journalists held after his return from a meeting of leaders of Russian towns. Due to a sharp deficit in the republican and local budgets, prices for milk, meat, and other foodstuffs will soon have to be freed. Due to a sharp increase in prices for fuel for repair work, mayor's offices will be able to sustain only 15 percent of last year's volume of such municipal services.

KOMMERSANT Correction to Decree on 'Mosvka' TV

MK1502090592

The following corrections pertain to the item headlined "Yeltsin Decree on 'Moskva' TV Criticized", published in the 14 February Central Eurasia DAILY REPORT, page 59:

Column two, first partial paragraph, only sentence should read: Poltoranin told KOMMERSANT's correspondent the... (correcting newspaper's name);

Column two, first full paragraph, only sentence should read: ...the committee, told KOMMERSANT'S correspondent that the... (correcting newspaper's name).

International Affairs

Kravchuk, Austria's Busek View Economic Reforms

AU2102203892 Vienna ORF Television Network in German 1830 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Report by Georg Dox]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Today, Austrian Vice Chancellor Busek and Economics Minister Schuessel met with Ukrainian President Kravchuk in Kiev. Ukraine, an agricultural state that is rich in raw materials, is anxious to get closer to Europe. An economic framework agreement between Austria and Ukraine is intended to make investments easier. First-hand information should help clarify how seriously Ukraine is tackling the challenge of introducing economic reforms.

[Begin Kravchuk recording, in Ukrainian with superimposed German translation] The Commonwealth of Independent States will have a future if we respect the documents that we signed and if people cease trying to reestablish a confederation. [end recording]

With this statement, Kravchuk rejects the proposal of Kazakh President Nazarbayev, who recently spoke out in favor of such a confederation.

Why is the question of legal succession so important for Ukraine?

[Begin Kravchuk recording] It is important not only for Ukraine but for all successor states. It is normal, international law. If we want to cooperate, we must first divide everything up honestly and in a lawful manner—the debts, but also all assets of the former Soviet Union. These are international standards, and Ukraine is demanding its legitimate share, no more and no less.

As far as the Black Sea Fleet is concerned, we never claimed all of it, although it has always been presented that way. All we say is that we want to build up the Ukrainian fleet on the basis of the Black Sea Fleet or parts of it. Its only task will be to protect the 1,100 km of coast. We are not interested in operations in the Mediterranean or elsewhere. I told Vice Chancellor Busek that we are planning to reduce our Army from between 200,000 to 220,000 men, and our Army will only serve the purpose of defense. [end recording]

Working Visit Concludes

LD2102223992 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1620 GMT 21 Feb 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Aleksey Trotsenko]

[Text] Kiev, 21 Feb (TASS)—A government delegation from Austria, led by Vice Chancellor Erhard Busek, has finished a three-day working visit to Ukraine. The guests had talks at the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet and the Cabinet of Ministers, as well as at a number of ministries.

Today, the delegation was received by Leonid Kravchuk, president of Ukraine. During the meeting, the president stressed that Ukraine does not view the Commonwealth as a state, nor as a kind of state formation. Concerning the creation of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, he said, among other things, that they would consist of 200,000-250,000 enlisted soldiers and officers. This army will only deal with the issues of internal security of the young state. Leonid Kravchuk expressed his satisfaction with the good relations with Austria.

NATO's Woerner 'Respects' Ukraine Independence

LD2302164292 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1340 GMT 23 Feb 92

[By UKRINFORM-TASS correspondent Aleksey Petrunya]

[Text] Kiev, 23 Feb (UKRINFOR-TASS)—"NATO respects the independence of Ukraine and will promote Ukraine's joining the world family of peoples," said NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner addressing a news conference on the results of the visit. Woerner is in Ukraine on a two-day visit. He noted that talks in Kiev were held in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and are the first step toward establishing cooperation between NATO and Ukraine. "I think this is an excellent start for our mutual relations," Woerner noted.

During meetings with Ukrainian leaders Woerner proposed building cooperation in the following three main directions: exchange of information, consultations in the security field and joint elaborations of defense concepts, and the exchange of specialists.

He expressed satisfaction with the Ukrainian position regarding strategic and tactical nuclear weapons, which consists of the fact that the republic is trying to eliminate them and to become a non nuclear power. As for the treaty on the reduction of conventional arms in Europe, he stated that the treaty needs to be ratified quickly, with some corrections in connection with the changes that have taken place.

Woerner invited Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk to visit NATO Headquarters in Brussels, and the foreign and defense ministers to take part in forthcoming conferences with their NATO colleagues.

U.S. Defense Delegation Visits Ukraine

LD2202195392 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 2200 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] A delegation of the U.S. Defense Department visited Kiev. The delegation included Deputy Commander in Chief of the U.S. Armed Formations in Europe General McCarthy, heads of the key groups, other representatives of the U.S. Defense Department. The delegation was received by the First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine, Vasiliy Durbynets. Taking part in the talks on the Ukrainian

side were people's deputies, representatives of the Defense Ministry of the republic. The guests were acquainted with the current socio-political situation in the republic and a number of issues pertaining to the formation of the Ukrainian Army. Both sides expressed hope that such meetings will be continued in future.

Illegal Flight Prompts Agreement with Russia

LD2202005192 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 2200 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] The minister for foreign affairs of Ukraine proposed to the foreign political department of Russia to elaborate a joint document. It is to prevent the illegal seizure of military hardware and (?perceive) the mechanism for returning it to its rightful owner. This has been evoked by the illegal flight from the territory of our republic to Russia of six fighter bombers.

Moves To Join East European 'Triangle' Cited

PM2102124592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Feb 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Report by Andrey Kamorin: "'Triangle' Will Not Yet Become a 'Square.' Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary Defer Examination of Idea of Union with Ukraine"]

[Text] "Ukraine's path to Europe lies across Poland"—these words uttered in Warsaw by D. Pavlychko, representative of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Commission for Foreign Affairs, attracted the attention of foreign commentators, primarily because of the contradictory role which the Ukrainian delegation played at the recent meeting of CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] leaders in Minsk.

The special stand that President L. Kravchuk took at the Minsk meeting on questions of cooperation within the framework of the Commonwealth is in clear contrast with the desire for integration shown by Ukrainian diplomacy in the "Central European salient." The most vivid manifestation of this course was D. Pavlychko's statement of Ukraine's desire to join the so-called "triangle" formed by Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary. Let us elaborate that the "triangle" today does not constitute an organizationally drawn up regional formation. It is merely an agreement among three Central European states to coordinate their actions, primarily in respect of the EC, NATO, and the CSCE. There are also plans to extend economic cooperation, although there is still a long way to go to the formation of a small "Common Market" here.

The Polish Foreign Ministry responded promptly to Pavlychko's statement, putting out an explanation that it does not seem possible to include Ukraine in the "triangle" at present because it "is at a different stage of postcommunist changes." So as not to offend the Ukrainians, the Polish foreign policy department did not omit to point to a precedent: Last year's request by Romania, which was also "delicately rejected."

This refusal was perfectly predictable: The "triangle" countries, which recently became associate members of the EEC, have advanced quite a long way along the path of integration in all-European structures, and their being joined by a vast state, one that is still tightly "bound" by the knot of contradictions that exist in the CIS, could set this process back by several stages.

It seems, however, that, although they are keeping Ukraine on the threshold of the "triangle," they are not closing the door in its face. All three member countries have stated their readiness to cooperate with Kiev in implementing specific projects. In particular, Ukraine has been invited to participate together with Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary in the "Jaslo-92" conference, which opens on Saturday [22 February] under the auspices of Lech Walesa.

Obviously, the signing of several quadrilateral Hungarian-Ukrainian-Polish-Czechoslovak agreements this week in the economic and cultural spheres should also be viewed in this context, our Budapest correspondent F. Lukyanov reports. The four countries agreed, in particular, to create free economic zones in regions bordering on each other, to set up a joint bank, and so on. So it cannot be ruled out that the "political geometry" of Central Europe will still change and the activeness of Ukraine here, with its tremendous human and natural potential, could become an important political factor in this part of the continent.

Fleet Upkeep Requires 500 Million Rubles

LD1502113592 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 14 Feb 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] A representative of the Ukraine military department has stated that Ukraine is completely financing the upkeep of the Black Sea Fleet. It has allocated 500 million rubles toward this purpose. The money allocated by Russia for these purposes, he said, is not part of Ukraine's budget and cannot therefore be used.

National Affairs

Division Personnel Take Oath of Allegiance

LD2202140292 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 0100 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Excerpt] The personnel of the Air Force division located in the town of Uzin, Kiev region, part of the composition of the strategic forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States, have begun taking an oath of allegiance to the people of Ukraine. The thing is that Moscow has begun working on a plan for the transferring the entire division. It is envisaged in part to disband the command of the formation and assign its regiments to other Air

Force units. In order to avoid a similar situation, the personnel of the division of General Bashkirov decided to take an oath of allegiance to the people of Ukraine and transfer over to its jurisdiction. [passage omitted]

Garrison Has 'Proper Attitude'

LD2202192792 Moscow POSTACTUM in English 1116 GMT 22 Feb 92

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] Kiev—The personnel of the Starokonstantinovsky Garrison whose pilots flew on board six bombers to Russia taking with them the regiment's standard asked that the regiment be preserved. The assembly of the garrison's personnel asked the Ukrainian president and the Ukrainian defense minister that the regiment be named the first bomber regiment and that a standard with the Ukrainian emblem be presented to it. Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk sent to the garrison a cable thanking its personnel for the proper attitude and also expressed the confidence that the regiment would loyally serve Ukraine.

Pilots Send Letter

LD2102180792 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1528 GMT 20 Feb 92

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] Kiev—Pilots of heavy bombers regiment of long-range aviation based in Uzin in Ukraine send a letter to the commander-in-chief of the joint Armed Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

PF [POSTFACTUM] learnt from the Main Staff of the Air Force of the joint Armed Forces of the CIS that a letter of the regiment's personnel to commander-in-chief of the joint Armed Forces of the CIS Marshal of the Air Force Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov says the following: The majority of the personnel of our heavy bombers regiment of long-range aviation of strategic bombers (50 percent of the personnel, 75 percent of commanders and navigators of crews), being aware of the difficult situation in the Uzin garrison, the town of Uzin, and realizing what formidable weapons we are controlling, turn to you with a sense of deep concern for the destiny of the strategic division, which according to the previous arrangements, is in your full command.

We realize that another attempt is being made to involve us into a political gamble. We categorically protest against unlawful actions of the division's commander, Major-General of the Air Force Bashkirov and Colonels Pakhomovskiy and Skabkin. Resorting to agitation power methods and misinformation they try to compel the entire personnel of the regiment to swear allegiance to Ukraine. Officers who have not taken an oath of allegiance are barred from fulfilling their duties. In this connection conflicts arise among the personnel, and sometimes even brawls erupt. Discipline worsened. Combat readiness lowered. There can be most dangerous consequences. Addressing us Bashkirov noted more than once that he is supported by the Ukrainian Government and the Ukrainian defence minister. Our question is: on whose support can we count?

We ask you to do your utmost to insure that the division is not placed under the Ukrainian jurisdiction, as this contradicts all the earlier adopted documents of the CIS.

Report of Leakage at Chernobyl 4th Unit Denied

LD2102180192 Moscow TASS in English 1708 GMT 21 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Rena Kuznetsova]

[Text] Moscow February 21 TASS—President of the Ukratomenergoprom [Ukrainian nuclear power program] concern Mikhayl Umanets described yesterday's report of the French TF1 TV company about a radioactive leakage at the encased fourth power unit of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant as "an absolutely ignorant technical provocation".

The French TV station claimed radioactive fuel "has vaporized" as a result of the decay reaction, and the badly-made encasing "sarcophagus" allegedly causes leaks through cracks in its walls.

Umanets told ITAR-TASS the sarcophagus does have a non-hermetic construction. However, there has no radioactive leakage.

The head of the concern, which controls and runs nuclear power facilities on Ukrainian territory, confirmed fuel discharges do take place, but they are "insignificant" and "correspond to the established norms". In his words, the norm is well-known, and reaches no more than five per cent of the contained fuel. "All the discharges go through the vent tube, as it was established by the project," Umanets said.

He considers it necessary to build a new long-term "sarcophagus" above the power unit devastated during the 1986 Chernobyl accident. However, in Umanets' words, Ukraine "will not be able to do it on its own", that is why the republican government has announced a world-wide contest for the best "Sarcophagus-2" project.

He said French and German specialists have made "interesting proposals" concerning the project.

Rovno Nuclear Power Plant Damaged by Fire

LD2102233892 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 2200 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] The press of the Rovno region reported about a fire at the local nuclear power plant. Three administrative buildings have been damaged by fire. The reason for the accident is being investigated.

Shaposhnikov 'Resorted to Twisting' Position

LD2302202192 Kiev Radio Kiev First Program Network in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine has sent a note to Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the united Armed Forces of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] concerning his television interview on 18 February. In the interview Marshal Shaposhnikov resorted to twisting Ukraine's position regarding the Black Sea Navy, saying that Ukraine lays claim to all of this Fleet.

It is noted in the document of Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs that the commander in chief's statements are related to issues which, according to a decision by the CIS heads of state, must be examined in the course of negotiations between only Ukraine and Russia.

It is stated in the note that his position as commander in chief of the united armed forces of several independent states makes it incumbent upon him to refrain from any actions that could create doubts about him being unbiased when performing his duties.

Parliament 'Has Completed Its Mission'

OW2102202292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1915 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk believes that current Ukrainian Parliament has completed its mission and multiparty parliamentary elections are required. He told representatives of political parties and movements on Friday [21 February] he hoped a future parliament would be solid and competent.

Leonid Kravchuk said that State Duma would consist of well-known Ukrainian economists, politicians, and cultural workers. The president hopes it will be set up in the near future.

The meeting was aimed at consolidating political forces to enhance Ukraine's independence.

About the "constructive" opposition which appeared as a counter-balance to the CPSU Leonid Kravchuk said that the CPSU and the central government in Moscow was no more and the opposition's mission should be to support the reforms and state independence of Ukraine.

The meeting adopted a joint declaration calling for the consolidation of all

Kravchuk Holds Roundtable Meeting in Kiev

LD2102214392 Moscow TASS in English 2006 GMT 21 Feb 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Mikhayl Melnik]

[Text] Kiev February 21 TASS—Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk has had a roundtable meeting with representatives of parties, movements and public organizations today to discuss the stabilization of the crisis economic situation and search for ways to consolidate political forces in the name of building independent Ukraine.

The president informed the meeting participants on his vision of a multi-party system and the role of the opposition under conditions of the democratic forces' victory. He also expressed his opinion of the activities of the republican Supreme Soviet and said the parliament in its current composition has fulfilled its mission.

The president called for new elections on a multi-party basis in order to make the parliament professional.

He said the state representative assembly will soon be set up to unite economists, scientists, men of culture and politicians. The assembly will be a collective adviser to the president.

The meeting sharply criticized the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers. Some participants demanded to form the government of people's confidence.

Alternative Military Service Law Adopted

LD2102184692 Moscow Radio Rossii in Russian 1200 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] The Ukrainian Supreme Soviet has adopted a law on alternative military service. The document permits persons whose faith makes it difficult or impossible for them to serve in the Armed Forces to perform public service work for a period provided for by the law.

Crimean Legislature Opens Regular Session

OW2102184792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1645 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A regular session of Crimean parliament has opened in Simferopol. It is going to discuss a new name of the Crimean Autonomy and power-sharing between Crimea and Ukraine. The deputies are to adopt a package of laws on economic development of the region and a program for helping the low-paid. Besides, the discussion of Crimea's draft constitution will continue.

Meanwhile, the regional chapter of the Rukh movement has asked Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk to consider the new Crimean constitution valid only after it is ratified by the Ukrainian parliament. The Rukh movement is against granting the Crimea the right to secede from Ukraine and appoint a representative of the Ukrainian president in the region.

Break in Work Announced

LD2102231192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] A break in the work of the Supreme Soviet was announced on 21 February at the session of the Crimean Supreme Soviet because of the fact that a delegation which was elected at the session has gone to Kiev. It has to discuss the proposals prepared by the parliament on the division of responsibilities between the autonomous republic and Ukraine.

The deputies appealed to the Supreme Soviet and the president of Russia to assist in restoring production-economic links and regulating economic relations between Russian and Crimea.

Death 'Nothing More Than' 'Political Killing'

MK2102113092 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Feb 92 p 3

[NEZAVISIMOST News Bureau report under the "In Brief" rubric: "Ukraine"]

[Text] The death of journalist and Ukrainian People's Deputy Vadim Boyko, (see NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA No. 32) is nothing more than a political killing, Ukrainian People's Deputy Stepan Khmara said, addressing journalists at a press conference on Tuesday [18 February]. According to S. Khmara, some very important audio and video materials were kept at the home of the deceased, V. Boyko. Khmara also added that three days before Vadim's mysterious death they spoke on the telephone. And Boyko confirmed that these materials were in his apartment. Incidentally, it did not prove possible to find them after the fire. According to Stepan Khmara, the story of the television exploding is unlikely. If only because notwithstanding the tremendous, purely mechanical devastation in the apartment the "exploding" television set's case remained virtually intact.

Belarus

Demonstrators Call For Dissolving Parliament

OW2302164292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1525 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Despite a heavy snowfall some 10,000 people gathered for a meeting in the heart of Minsk on Sunday [23 February]. They called for a referendum on confidence in the government. The idea is to dissolve the parliament, conduct early parliamentary elections in the coming autumn and form a new government in Belarus. Virtually all political parties and movements in the republic are in favor of such a referendum.

The meeting was organized by the Belarussian Popular Front whose leader [words indistinct] declared: "Life has shown that the present parliament is incapable of reforming itself." The initiating group for the proposed referendum issued an appeal to the citizens of Belarus: "The parliament and government have been dragging behind neighbor states for 2 years now. As a result Belarus sustained losses amounting to billions of rubles. Its economy is ruined. Prices are rising. Plants are stopping."

It's necessary to collect 350,000 signatures to conduct a referendum.

Party Wants Referendum

LD2302193292 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1556 GMT 23 Feb 92

[From the "Politics" section: "Referendum on the Supreme Soviet Dissolution Demanded"—POSTFACTUM headline]

[Text] Minsk—Supporters of the People's Accord Party in Belarus demand that a referendum on dissolution of the Belarussian Supreme Soviet should be conducted and institute of presidency introduced.

A statement of the People's Accord Party supporters' coordinating meeting published in the NARODNAYA GAZETA (PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER), a publication of the Belarussian Supreme Soviet, on February 22, suggests that those people's deputies who still wish to retain their managerial jobs elsewhere, should be removed from the republic Supreme Soviet. The statement also says that an unstable temporary equilibrium has been achieved between the former opposition and parliamentary majority, formed by the leadership of the republic Communist Party, while new political parties are few in number, weak and do not have wide social basis.

When addressing all ex-communists, who, when in the party, sought ways to reform the Communist Party of Belarus, the participants in the meeting pronounce:

The People's Accord Party is open to "all progressive ideas." It does not raise a question of former political views and beliefs of its members. It counts on workers and farmers, on office workers, intelligence and patriotically-minded entrepreneurs and their support, on all those who wish to live in prosperity while working for themselves.

Some observers believe this is an unconcealed attempt of former high-ranking Communist Party officials to establish their own party. It seems likely that Stanislav Shushkevich, chairman of the Belarussian Supreme Soviet, will rely on this party when running for presidency.

Poll Shows Support for Remaining in CIS

LD2302225492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] Of those polled by the government service for studying the public opinion of the Belarus Republic, 60 percent are against Belarus withdrawing from the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS]. Only about 16 percent of those polled believe that it is essential to get out of the CIS to overcome the crisis in Belarus.

Shushkevich Comments on Army Reorganization

LD2302100792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0600 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Text] Stanislav Shushkevich, chairman of the Belarussian parliament, has stated at a meeting with servicemen that the reorganization of the Belarussian armed forces is inevitable. In his opinion, every fourth serviceman will be cut. The tentative size of the Belarussian army is 50,000 men and the state is obliged to assume all care for these people, Shushkevich said. Answering a question on the sources of finance for the army, Shushkevich explained that the main burden of expenditure lies on Russia's shoulders but that Belarus is also taking on major obligations.

Property of Former USSR Nationalized

OW2102210592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1915 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Belarussian state committee for property affairs has nationalized all former union property on the territory of the republic. Belarus has taken over 618 various industries. These assets are estimated at more than 35 billion rubles and account for 49 billion rubles worth of manufactures. Eleven of the nationalized industries had operated at a loss.

Shushkevich, Kebich Meet With Kuwaiti Group

LD1902222192 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarussian 0800 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] A governmental delegation from Kuwait has arrived in Minsk with Nasir 'Abdallah Al-Ridan, minister of finance, at its head. The delegation leader stated that the aim of the visit is [words indistinct] to consolidate further cooperation between the states and to consider the question of investing capital and creating joint ventures. These words of the leader of the foreign delegation [words indistinct]. Besides diplomats, it includes representatives of a number of ministries, [word indistinct] businessmen. Stanislaw Shushkevich, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belorussia, received the delegation. On the same day, Prime Minister Vyachaslav Kebich also met with the delegation. After discussing specific cooperation programs a confidential meeting of the leaders of the delegation and the Belarussian Government took place.

Shushkevich Insists on 'Viability' of CIS

MK1902121892 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 19 Feb 92 p 2

[Interview with S. Shushkevich, head of Belarus parliament, by Vladimir Strakhov; date and place not given; first paragraph is introduction: "S. Shushkevich: 'I Believe in the Commonwealth'"]

[Text] Many people are now predicting the imminent collapse of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States]. However, S. Shushkevich, head of the Belarus parliament, has another viewpoint.

[Shushkevich] The meeting in Minsk that has just ended showed once again that all countries within the Commonwealth need it. Individual republics' varying approaches on military matters are by no means impeding good, mutually beneficial cooperation in other areas, above all in the economic sphere. The Commonwealth's coordinating center—the permanent working group based in Minsk—has also proved its viability. This time documents were drafted and amendments and comments submitted of quite a different standard, and the results of the meeting showed that the working group can operate dynamically. So, the fears regarding the instability of the Commonwealth and its coordinating organs are in my view unfounded.

[Strakhov] How do you regard the idea of a number of CIS republics' introducing their own currency?

[Shushkevich] I firmly support the preservation of a single ruble and economic area within the CIS countries today. Something that has taken years to develop should be retained as long as possible. There must be no hasty steps in the economy. We are all closely interconnected with the structures of the former Union. But if someone does nonetheless decide to introduce their own currency, this step must at least be coordinated with the other Commonwealth countries.

[Strakhov] The meeting in Kiev 20 March will consider questions of the former USSR's property. By what criteria will it be divided up among the republics?

[Shushkevich] The simplest criterion is the proportion of the former republic's national income within the former Union. Problems involved in returning Western credits and the sharing of the collapsed empire's assets and property will be considered using the same criteria. But this is too simple, and I think that amendments will be made here.

UNICEF Mission Arrives in Minsk 21 Feb

LD2302231692 Moscow TASS in English 1642 GMT 21 Feb 92

[By BELTA-TASS correspondent Tatyana Khryapina]

[Text] Minsk February 21 TASS—A UNICEF mission that arrived here today aims to estimate Belarussian children and mothers' needs for humanitarian aid.

The mission previously visited Russia, and will also travel to Moldova and Ukraine.

Mission head and deputy UNICEF executive director Marco Vianello Chiodo told BELTA their visit is a result of the Washington coordinating conference on assistance to the new independent states.

He said they will have to clarify the situation with food and medical supplies to children and mothers in the new independent republics in order to take immediate action to protect their welfare.

UNICEF is deeply concerned over the continuing impact of the Chernobyl accident on the life and health of children in Ukraine, Russia and, especially, Belarus. The mission will recommend specific technical and other aid to children and mothers living in the affected areas.

The mission will spend three days in Belarus. Its conclusions and proposals will be discussed at the March session of the UNICEF board.

Moldova

Diplomatic Relations Established With Canada

LD2002221792 Moscow TASS in English 1801 GMT 20 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valentin Vasilets]

[Text] Ottawa February 20 ITAR-TASS—Canada and Moldova have established diplomatic relations. A joint declaration declaring the two governments' intention to develop contacts between their nations was signed in the building of the Canadian parliament today. The ceremony was attended by President Mircea Snegur of Moldova, who is in Canada on a brief working visit.

Mircea Snegur said in his address after Moldovan Foreign Minister Nicolae Tiu and Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs Barbara MacDougall signed the declaration that it was an important day for a new independent state. "We are very much interested in canadian support for our democratic changes," he said. Barbara MacDougall wished success to Moldovans at a time when they are joining the community of nations as an independent state. Moldova has taken a responsible stand on all problems it facing after winning independence, she said. MacDougall said that the Canadian ambassador to Romania would be accredited in Moldova. President Mircea Snegur is due to meet Canadian Premier Brian Mulroney.

Grants Medical Aid

LD2102142192 Moscow TASS in English 0723 GMT 21 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valentin Vasilets]

[Text] Ottawa February 21 TASS—Canada and Moldova on Thursday [20 February] signed a declaration to establish diplomatic relations. On the same day, Moldovan President Mircea Snegur met Prime Minister Brian Mulroney to discuss bilateral cooperation.

After the talks, Snegur announced that Canada has given 1.5 million dollars in aid to Moldova to buy medicine. Canadian officials were very understanding and promised to extend moral, intellectual, technical and economic support to the young Moldovan state, Snegur told ITAR-TASS.

The sides also discussed specific areas of cooperation, including in agriculture, Snegur added. "Certainly, we have to settle our problems ourselves, but we would be grateful for any support," he said.

Moldova has not yet decided on its mission in North America. "We will probably first open an embassy in the United States, and then decide what to do," Snegur said.

Snegur on Visits

AU2302194492 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1806 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Text] Chisinau ROMPRES 23/2/1992—President Mircea Snegur of Moldova stated in a news conference held after the visits to the U.S. and Canada that they ended with "fine results," MOLDOVA PRES reports.

Referring to the talks conducted with George Bush, the chief of the American executive and with Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, Snegur said: "These meetings are of extreme importance for our young sovereign state, they account for the first steps on the path of Moldova's diplomacy, and I would even call them cornerstones in the process of joining the Republic of Moldova to the world community. I am pleased that these giant states in the West promised us support in more than one domain," Snegur said.

Then, President Snegur assessed that "there is a certain readiness on the part of the United States and Canada to give the needed assistance, especially in updating the economy. If Moldova steps firmly toward free economic development, toward the market economy and if the necessary conditions are created for foreign investors."

President Snegur assessed that "the most important moment" of the visits was "the political support the Republic of Moldova obtained from those two big, developed countries. The concrete result of that support," he said, will be "the admission of our young country to more international bodies, like the International Monetary Fund, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, etc, the granting of the most favoured nation status."

Kuwait To Extend Country $500 Million Credit

LD2002143192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Kuwait intends to make available to Moldova a credit totalling $500 million. This became known, according to AFP, during a visit of the Kuwaiti government delegation to Chisinau. It was announced that Kuwait is ready to establish diplomatic relations with Moldova and to invest in its agrarian sector. A trade agreement has been signed. It provides for deliveries of Kuwaiti oil in exchange for agricultural produce from Moldova.

State To Respond to Russian Price 'Pressure'

LD2402092292 Moscow TASS in English 0811 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Chisinau February 24 TASS—Moldovan Finance and Economic Minister Konstantin Tamp accused Russia of the high pressure on the Moldovan economy by increasing prices for tractors, cars and equipment.

The minister told the weekly GOLOS NARODA magazine on Monday [24 February] that Russia now sells a tractor for 250.000 rubles, when it used to cost only 10-13 thousand recently. According to local farmers, they will be able to work without new Russian tractors for two or three years, if the repairing base is properly adjusted.

The minister said that Moldova supplied Russia with goods worth 3.3 billion roubles last year, including foodstuffs, while Russian export to Moldova totalled 2.8 billion rubles.

Ninety-eight per cent of Russian supplies last year were raw materials, cars and equipment. This year all the goods are liable to a 35 per cent surplus value tax, which is an additional 10 billion rubles for Moldova.

The republic will henceforth take certain measures in response, Konstantin Tamp referred.

Opposition Comments on Unification With Romania

AU2402101992 Bucharest ROMANIA LIBERA in Romanian 18 Feb 92 p 8

[Bazil Stefan article: "The Chances of Unification Revive"]

[Excerpts] One need not be a famous expert in order to realize that the third congress of the Popular Front, which ended last Sunday [February 16] in Chisinau, will certainly go down as a moment of reference in our democratic and national evolution. There are two main reasons in favor of this idea. The first: The congress decided that the Popular Front should add two more titles—"Christian" and "Democratic"—to its name, which is bound to take it out of its original confused position of being a somewhat heterogeneous and hard-to-define grouping. [passage omitted] The Christian Democratic Popular Front [FPCD] is thus defining its position in the political landscape, namely as a center grouping—in opposition to the current leaders in Chisinau—thus becoming an ally of the National Peasant Christian Democratic Party [PNTCD] and of the Democratic Convention of Romania. The election of Ioan Alexandru and of Ana Blandiana as honorary members of the Council of the Front (its leading body) leaves no trace of doubt about this. As an outcome of this decision, there is now a clear-cut and convincing democratic alternative on the other bank of the River Prut to the perestroyka-style politics of Mircea Snegur.

Even more important is the second aspect, namely that concerning national policy. Aside from proclaiming the "participation in the liberation of Romanian territories and the rebirth of Romania, as a united state," as the party's paramount aim, the documents agreed upon in Chisinau—the new statute and the new program—also contain the script for the country's reunification by means of economic, social, and cultural integration, by synchronizing reforms, and by unifying the churches and the educational and other social systems. [passage omitted]

All the other decisions approved by the congress are the outcome of this unionist choice: The decision stipulating that not only inhabitants of the Republic of Moldova, but also inhabitants of Romania may become members of the FPCD and the decision to ask the Bucharest Parliament to restore Romanian citizenship to all those who lost it as a result of foreign occupation, including to their descendants. This applies, of course, to the Romanians living in Bessarabia, Bukovina, and the Herta District.

We would also like to note the sublime percentage (yes, sublime is the proper word) by which Mircea Druc, the outstanding political figure of Moldova of the other side of the River Prut, was elected president of the FPCD. Although there were three equally well-known and appreciated candidates running against him for the party presidency, Mircea Druc obtained almost 90 percent of the votes (593 of 665), thus becoming the number one personality of the opposition in the Republic of Moldova. Hopefully he will soon act as such in the political life of reunified Romania.

Parliament Leader Comments

LD2402110192 Moscow TASS in English 1016 GMT 24 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pyotr Angeli]

[Text] Chisinau February 24 TASS—"There are no objective conditions for Moldova's reunification with Romania in the foreseeable future," Vice-Chairman of the Moldovan parliament Viktor Pushkash told the weekly "GLASUL NATIUNII" (VOICE OF THE NATION) today.

He believes the desire of a handful of patriots was not enough for reunification, even if they were mostly intellectuals. Such a reunification should be desired by the majority of the nation. If, nevertheless, it occurred in the foreseeable future, it would "import separatism" into Romania, leading to the destruction of the Romanian state. "I doubt the Romanians want this to happen," Pushkash said.

Foreign Minister on Enhancing Independence

AU2102115092 Bucharest ADEVARUL in Romanian 15-16 Feb 92 pp 1, 8

[Interview with Nicolae Tiu, foreign minister of the Republic of Moldova, by Bogdan Chirieac; place and date not given: "Chisinau: Closer to Kiev Than to Bucharest?"]

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Chisinau occupies the third floor of the former local soviet, currently government, building. The ministry was founded only recently, so that not even the police know about its existence. The people in the street whom I asked directed me to the building of the Ministry of the Interior. The "foreign affairs chief," Mr. Nicolae Tiu, currently leads a team of 22 people who are trying to set up diplomatic relations with the 90 countries that have recognized the independence of the Republic of Moldova. Since the phrase used in Chisinau to denote the country is the "independent Republic of Moldova," the first question we asked the foreign minister was:

[Chirieac] Mr. Tiu, is the Republic of Moldova an independent state?

[Tiu] I believe we are now in the middle of the first stage leading to independence. In order to become a fully independent state, we have to solve three problems. First, we need a well-organized banking and financial system, including our own currency. Then, through negotiations with the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS], we will have to solve the problem of the 20,000 Soviet soldiers stationed on our republic's territory. And finally, we have to solve the problem of our frontiers. We cannot have foreign soldiers guarding our

state borders. After having dealt with these problems, we will focus on deepening democracy and setting up the market economy.

[Chirieac] The first Russian words we heard after crossing into the Republic of Moldova were "Move back!" (Nazad!) because we had crossed one of the many the lines delineating the border that crisscross the checkpoint. That Soviet soldier could not speak a word in Romanian, so in order to make himself better understood, he ostentatiously pointed at the Kalashnikov gun on his back. Mr. Tiu, stability is one of the prerequisites for achieving the aforementioned goals. In this context, how do you assess the secessionist tendencies of the so-called Gagauz and Dnestr republics?

[Tiu] In both cases, the people living in these territories do not want to secede from Moldova; it is their leaders, who do. We will have to solve these problems, too, but only in a peaceful way.

[Chirieac] Have Russia and the Ukraine exerted any pressure on you to the benefit of these two so-called republics?

[Tiu] No, not at all. Besides, no state has recognized them, either.

[Chirieac] Nevertheless, is the left bank of the Dnestr still under the control of Chisinau?

[Tiu] Yes, of course it is.

[Chirieac] For instance, do the police in that area obey the orders of the Republic of Moldova?

[Tiu] Well, not really... There is a militia operating in that area, which was provided with weapons by the ex-commander of the 14th Soviet Army stationed there. As a matter of fact, this is why he was fired. The members of this militia go on daily raids into Romanian villages, intimidating people.

[Chirieac] What is the long-term objective of the Republic of Moldova? Is it union with Romania?

[Tiu] Our goal is to achieve the independence of the Republic of Moldova, because today, in spite of all the states that have recognized us, we cannot consider ourselves independent. We can think of other things only afterwards.

[Chirieac] Would you comment on the recent visit to Chisinau by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker?

[Tiu] All the sides considered this visit a success. Baker had a wonderful time with us, he extended his visit by an hour. We hope to establish diplomatic ties with the United States soon.

[Chirieac] Were there any talks on possible unification with Romania?

[Tiu] The opinion of the U.S. secretary of state was that this issue concerns the Republic of Moldova and Romania, solely.

[Chirieac] Mr. Tiu, according to rumors in a number of European chanceries, the Republic of Moldova has requested that those countries be represented in Moldova by their ambassadors in Kiev, not those in Bucharest. Could you comment on that?

[Tiu] Why not set up representative offices in Chisinau, too?

[Chirieac] This is the point of my question. But if not all of these countries open embassies here, which of your two neighbors—Romania or the Ukraine—would be closer to you?

[Tiu] The Romanians are not only our neighbors, they are our brothers, we are neighbors and brothers. Yet, it is a fact that the economy of the Republic of Moldova is very much integrated with that of the other republics belonging to the former USSR. Nevertheless, we did start an economic integration process with Romania and other European states, as well.

[Chirieac editorial note: Undoubtedly, no one knows the problems of the Republic of Moldova better than the Moldovans themselves. However, working one's way to the West by further detours through the old empire is a new element that cannot be ignored when assessing developments in Moldova.]

Kazakhstan

President on Joining Nonproliferation Treaty

LD2402042392 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0135 GMT 24 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladislav Legantsov]

[Excerpts] Islamabad, 24 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—"Welcome, Nursultan Nazarbayev" and "Pakistan Welcomes Kazakhstan's President" were the slogans decorating the streets of the Pakistani capital as the Kazakh leader arrived on an official visit on 23 February.

Mutual understanding on a wide range of issues was reached on the first day of talks with Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. A wide range of international and regional issues and the prospects for setting up and developing bilateral ties was examined at the talks.

The Kazakhstan president spoke in favor of developing bilateral relations with Pakistan. The sides at the three-hour meeting agreed to establish and expand mutually advantageous cooperation, particularly trade and economic cooperation. The president and the prime minister held tete-a-tete talks for about an hour.

N. Sharif said that Kazakhstan will play an important role in strengthening regional peace as it occupies an important strategic position in Asia and holds vast natural resources.

A banquet hosted by Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in honor of the high guest passed in a friendly and benevolent atmosphere. [passage omitted]

N. Nazarbayev noted in his speech that Kazakhstan is fully prepared to restore old ties between neighboring states, broken several decades ago through no fault of Kazakhstan. He stressed that cooperation between Kazakhstan and Pakistan has great prospects, particularly in industry, transportation and communications, banking, cadre training, and in other areas. The president supported Pakistan's proposal to set up a nuclear-free zone in South Asia. He confirmed that his country wants to eliminate the world nuclear threat and said that Kazakhstan, being a state with nuclear weapons on its territory, is ready to join the Nonproliferation Treaty. N. Nazarbayev highly assessed the Pakistani Government's economic reforms, saying that they are of great interest to Kazakhstan.

The talks continue today, and it is expected that a number of joint documents will be signed.

Seeks 'Parity'

PM2402165092 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Feb 92 Morning Edition p 4

[Nikolay Paklin report under the general heading: "After Nursultan Nazarbayev's Visit India and Pakistan Will Recognize Kazakhstan as an Equal Partner"]

[Text] Delhi—The visit by Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev to India and Pakistan stands out among a string of visits by leaders of CIS states, which have been so frequent in recent months. Kazakhstan's leader, to all appearances, is interested not only in the ceremonies of opening embassies and raising the flag, but in more real and weighty manifestations of sovereignty.

Nazarbayev said in Delhi what they wanted to hear from him above all: Independent Kazakhstan will remain a secular state. The government of Kazakhstan, the president stressed, rejects any form of extremism, including religious extremism. "Islamic fundamentalism would put us back several centuries," he stated.

According to the Kazakh president, there is no question of the former Soviet republics of Central Asia joining a bloc of fundamentalist states, if such a bloc were created. As for the development of their relations with the Islamic nations, that is a natural process.

Nazarbayev was more vague in answering Indian journalists' questions on the nuclear strategy of Kazakhstan, on whose territory, as is well known, a considerable proportion of the former USSR's missiles with nuclear warheads are sited. While coming out in favor of the regime of nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, he stated that Kazakhstan proceeds on the basis of the principle of parity on the question of eliminating nuclear arsenals. Kazakhstan will be prepared to eliminate its nuclear potential only on condition that the United States, China, and Russia do the same. Judging by Nazarbayev's statement, it is from those states that the nuclear threat emanates. The president of Kazakhstan expressed the hope that Kazakhstan's scientists will cooperate with their Indian colleagues in the sphere of peaceful utilization of nuclear energy.

As for deliveries of combat equipment to India from the former USSR, in Nazarbayev's opinion this question should be discussed at a meeting of Commonwealth heads of state. The Indian newspapers assessed these words of Nazarbayev's as an assurance of military cooperation with India by the Commonwealth as a whole and Kazakhstan in particular. But Indo-Kazakhstan cooperation in the military sphere, which was much discussed in Delhi even before Nazarbayev's visit, has an "Afghan nuance." According to Indian diplomats' information, Alma-Ata does not consider itself bound by the Soviet-U.S. accords on stopping military deliveries to Kabul. People in Delhi do not rule out the possibility of cooperation between India and Kazakhstan in providing aid to Afghanistan.

N. Nazarbayev's visit ended with the signing of five India-Kazakhstan agreements. The sides decided to establish full diplomatic relations. However, it did not prove possible to fill out with real content the five-year agreement on cooperation in the trade and economic sphere. It is of a general nature. An accord was reached only that a trade treaty and a protocol on the exchange of goods in 1992 will be signed at a later date. Nazarbayev

invited Indian businessmen to invest capital in Kazakhstan and set up mixed enterprises. He named as priority spheres for economic cooperation the leather and textile industry, electrical equipment production, hotel construction, and mineral extraction. At the talks the sides expressed the desire to link Kazakhstan and India by telephone, and their capitals by air communication.

Nazarbayev Appoints Governors, Rules on Cash

PM2002144292 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Feb 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Vladimir Ardayev report: "Administration Heads Are 'Party Apparatus Guard'"]

[Text] Alma-Ata—N. Nazarbayev, president of the Republic of Kazakhstan, has finished appointing heads of oblast administrations.

Twenty-one plenipotentiary representatives of the president have been appointed in Kazakhstan's 19 oblasts and the two cities of republic subordination—Alma-Ata and Leninsk (where the families of those who work at the Baykonur Cosmodrome live). Despite the comparative youth of the administration heads (the majority are not more than 50 years old), they are professional leaders. As many of them state in their questionnaires: "has experience of Komsomol, party, and soviet work." They are mainly engineers and agricultural specialists by training (the largest number—nine people—are mechanical engineers), but many graduated from the Higher Party School or the Social Sciences Academy under the former CPSU Central Committee.

It is noteworthy that in the past a number of the new appointees headed oblast party organizations and thus, to use N. Nazarbayev's own expression, constituted "the party apparatus guard—the bulwark of resistance to reforms in the republic." In addition, yesterday's leaders of the oblast soviet executive committees, which are being abolished, ministers, and a staffer on the president's apparatus have become administration heads. A possible exception to the general rule is P. Nefedov, who has been appointed head of the Karaganda Oblast Administration and who was working as a mine director.

Another piece of news: The president's decree "On Emergency Measures To Provide the Republic's National Economy With Cash" has been published.

The decree notes that a state of emergency has arisen in the republic with regard to ready money. A special regime for cash operations is being introduced on the territory of Kazakhstan from February through the end of 1992 in order to provide for cash transactions with its population as a top priority. It is decreed that all transactions between enterprises, organizations, and establishments, regardless of the forms of ownership, be conducted exclusively in a cashless manner. Ready cash is henceforth issued from bank cash desks only to pay wages, compensation, pensions, benefits, and grants and to buy agricultural products connected with saturating the consumer market.

All enterprises, organizations, and establishments, regardless of the forms of ownership, are required to make monthly transfers from the wages of working people to deposits at the rate of 30 percent of the average monthly wage in excess of 2,000 rubles. Accounts will be opened as selected by the investors themselves in establishments of the Savings Bank or other commercial banks of the republic.

It is planned to make more widespread the practice of cashless transactions involving the use of checks in transactions between citizens and enterprises of all forms of ownership. Sanctions in the form of fines are envisaged for enterprises which violate the special regime.

Armenia

Government Reacts to Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict

Offensive Reports 'Disinformation'

LD2302101592 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0820 GMT 23 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 23 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—The Armenian Ministry of Defense has labeled as disinformation the claims that Armenia is allegedly carrying out military actions on the territory of Kubatlinskiy Rayon in Azerbaijan.

In reality, villages in Gorisskiy Rayon in Armenia were shelled from the territory of Kubatlinskiy Rayon on 21 February, says the statement issued by the ministry on 22 February. There have been casualties.

The Ministry of Defense expressed alarm over the mass seizure of modern weapons in Azerbaijan. Over the past few days, the statement says, Azerbaijani armed formations seized from the Commonwealth of Independent States Army another three Grad rocket launchers [ustanovka Grad], a squadron of military strike helicopters, and a large number of weapons and personal equipment [snarzheniye] which the Azerbaijani Army is putting to use immediately.

The Armenian Ministry of Defense has demanded that the command of the united Armed Forces of the CIS "adopt immediate measures to prevent weapons from being seized by Azerbaijan or arms and personal equipment of the CIS Army being handed over to it; that systems of mass destruction being used against the civilian population of Nagorno-Karabakh be neutralized; and that the uncontrolled expansion of the conflict not be permitted."

Azerbaijan Said Working With Turkey

LD2302213292 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1900 GMT 23 Feb 92

[From the "New Wave" program]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Armenian Defense Ministry considers the escalation of military operations by the Azerbaijani side to be synchronized with the actions of the Turkish Army, in the hope of expanding the geographical confines of the conflict.

Commander on Turkish Deployment

LD2102180792 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1525 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Yerevan, 21 Feb (ARMENPRESS-TASS)—In connection with reports that a deployment of Turkey's military forces is taking place along the Armenian-Turkish border, an ARMENPRESS correspondent asked Lieutenant General Yevgeniy Meshcheryakov, commander of the 7th Army stationed in Armenia, to comment on the data. "In actual fact the 3d Field Army of the Turkish Armed Forces is being deployed in areas along the Armenian border," he said. "In our assessment, the Turkish side is preparing and conducting planned exercises. I would like to believe that this action is not related to the events in our region. It is natural that in these conditions the personnel in our Army, as units of the Armed Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States, of which the Republic of Armenia is a member, are carrying out their service vigilantly by attentively following all the relocations of troops on the adjacent territory."

Country Faces 'Threat of War'

LD2102222792 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1928 GMT 21 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 21 Feb (TASS)—"The independence that Armenia has achieved is not a gift of fate but the result of struggle, hardship, and sacrifice," Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan said today in a speech at a meeting in Yerevan, attended by many thousands, to mark the fourth anniversary of the Nagorno-Karabakh movement.

The Armenian president emphasized that the republic now faces the threat of war and the split of the nation. This, he says, is being plotted by some opposition forces. Dismissing accusations by the opposition, Levon Ter-Petrosyan noted that he is proud to be part of the "Nagorno-Karabakh" committee and of the Armenian national movement, whose program and ideas he is implementing. Criticizing the opposition, the Armenian president expressed the view that "they have neither a program nor a creative idea. They are only engaged in compromising the authorities democratically elected by the people."

Official Says War Possible

LD2202205892 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] In the opinion of the Armenian National Movement, the ruling party in Armenia, the greatest danger today is the extension of combat operations beyond the borders of Nagorno-Karabakh and the outbreak of an Armenian-Azerbaijani war. David Shakhnazaryan, a deputy in the Armenian Supreme Soviet, stated this at a rally on Friday [21 February] evening marking the 4th anniversary of the Nagorno-Karabakh Movement. On the subject of Armenian recognition of the independence of Nagorno-Karabakh, Shakhnazaryan stressed that this idea is supported by all Armenian people. He also stated that negotiations are under way now with a number of states on the external recognition of the independence of Nagorno-Karabakh.

President Addresses Rally

LD2202215892 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 22 Feb 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Correspondent A. Abramyan] Until its victory at the parliamentary elections, rallies were the principal method of political struggle used by the Armenian National Movement. Over the last 18 months the ruling party has abandoned rallies, and the opposition was not slow to exploit this fact. However, the need for direct communication with the people has not changed. Addressing this rally, President Levon Ter-Petrosyan stressed that it is extremely important to prevent an escalation of the Nagorno- Karabakh conflict. All efforts must be channelled into creative work within the republic, he said.

[Begin recording] [B. Ararktsyan, chairman of the Armenian Supreme Soviet] We must build a peaceful, democratic state. The greatest threat is that of being dragged into war—not just for our country, but any country.

[Abramyan] How do you react to people—on this square and elsewhere—who disapprove, as it were, of the words you have just spoken?

[Ararktsyan] I regard it as absolutely normal. No democratic government can exist without this. There has to be an opposition. This is an indispensable condition for a democratic state. [end recording]

Helicopters Carry Supplies to Nagorno-Karabakh

NC2202160292 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Yerevan, 21 Feb (ARMENPRES)—Two Armenian Civil Aviation Department helicopters were assigned to the Vardenis Airport, establishing a new air bridge with the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR]. The regional aviation department has independently revamped the airport grounds and repaired installations. In the past few days up to eight flights have been made to Nagorno-Karabakh daily, delivering medicine, foodstuffs, fuel, and other vital goods.

For now the flights head mostly for NKR's Shaumyanovskiy Rayon, where the necessary conditions have been created to receive helicopters. Later there will also be flights to other areas.

Azerbaijan

Government Criticizes Armenia's 'Aggression'

OW2102181592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1645 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Azeri president's press service has told IF [INTERFAX] that the "growing scale of Armenia's aggression supported by units of the former Soviet Army in Nagorno-Karabakh" gives no reasons for optimism. The press center issued the statement in the wake of the Azeri and Armenian foreign minister's meeting in Moscow on February 20 mediated by Russia.

The Azeri President's press service confirmed that Azerbaijan remained committed to a political settlement of the dispute with Armenia.

In the meantime, one of the leaders of the opposition Popular Front of Azerbaijan, MP [member of parliament] Tofig Gasymov has said that "it makes no sense having talks with Armenia at a time when Armenia has strengthened in positions in Nagorno-Karabakh over the past few days".

He said that the Azeri parliament had not empowered the Foreign Minister to have talks or sign any agreements in Moscow.

Tofig Gasymov believes that "only force can stop Armenia's aggression against Azerbaijan".

About President Mutalibov's address to the people on Thursday [20 February] Gasymov said that it contained no specific proposals for a settlement.

The Azeri Popular Front has strongly criticized the authorities for the army's unsuccessful operations in Nagorno-Karabakh. The supreme legislative body of the Popular Front has demanded the resignation of the President and all top executive government bodies.

Mutalibov Orders Mobilization of Reservists

OW2102193992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1915 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Azeri President Ayaz Mutalibov has declared the mobilization of reservists aged 20 to 40 and having certain skills. The presidential decree signed on Friday [21 February] says that the national forces lack well-trained personnel because most of the republic's citizens served in the Soviet Army as military builders.

Observers believe that the decree is aimed at strengthening the national army which has suffered a series of defeats in Nagorno-Karabakh. They say that was the reason for dismissal of the Azeri Defence Minister General-Major Mekhtiyev this week.

President Mutalibov said Moscow was partially responsible for what is going on in Nagorno-Karabakh. He was speaking at his talks with the French Deputy Minister of the Interior B. Kushner on Friday. President Mutalibov emphasized his demand for the withdrawal of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] forces from the disputed area. He paid special attention to the pullout of

the 366th regiment stationed in Khankendi saying that its complicity in fanning the conflict has been proved.

Report Denied

LD2202135192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] A Radio Liberty correspondent was told by the director of the AZERINFORM agency that the report on a mobilization decree by the republic's president, Mutalibov, is false.

As the INTERFAX agency reported yesterday, Mutalibov issued a decree on the partial mobilization of reservists. The decree says that the Azerbaijani forces are experiencing a shortage of military personnel. INTERFAX did not indicate the source of its information.

CIS Forces Allegedly Launch 'Offensive'

LD2202181992 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] [Announcer] The press service of Azerbaijan has stated that Armenian troops, together with forces of the 7th and 4th Armies of the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS], began an offensive against Azerbaijan territory today. The press service report, which was transmitted by the INTERFAX agency, points out that motorized units, including tanks, are advancing through the territory of the Tauzskiy, Lachinskiy, Kubatlinskiy, Zangelanskiy, and Fizulinskiy rayons. Our correpondent Azer Khalilov reports from Baku.

[Khalilov] Farkhad Mirtev, a member of the Azerbaijani president's press service, reports that Armenian armed forces have penetrated between 10 and 15 km into the territory of Azerbaijan. He said that peaceful Azerbaijan settlements are being seized along the way. Naturally, nothing is known about the fate of the local population, but according to reports from the localities Armenian troops are treating them very cruelly. Thus, according to Mirtev's report, Armenian troops have invaded the territory of the Lachinksiy, Kazakhskiy, Zangelanskiy, Kubatlinskiy, and Fizulinskiy rayons of Azerbaijan. Asked how this should be classified, he said that most probably it is a very real war. In reply to a question on whether President Mutalibov has declared a partial mobilization of troops, as was reported by the central media yesterday, he said that he knows nothing of that. However, the turn taken by events on 22 February means that a general mobilization will obviously be declared. I repeat that so far these are just the ideas and opinions of Farkhad Mirtev. Time will tell how events will develop further. Azer Khalilov for Radio Rossii news service, Baku.

[Announcer] An INTERFAX correspondent was told that the Armenian president's staff have heard nothing of the offensive.

Report of Offensive Denied

LD2202182992 Moscow TASS in English 1809 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] Moscow February 22 TASS—Information about the beginning of combat operations with the participation of the personnel and military hardware of the units of the Transcaucasian Military District, is at variance with the real situation, a spokesman for the General Staff of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] Allied Armed Forces told ITAR-TASS, commenting on the reports of some news agencies about the beginning of a large-scale offensive of Armenian troops on the Azeri territory, supported by CIS army units. According to the General Staff spokesman, the command of the Allied Armed Forces stick to its policy of non-interference in inter-ethnic conflicts.

The Armenian Defence Ministry also refuted those reports of news agencies. It issued a statement which says: "The only purpose of this misinformation is to distract the attention of the public from the policy of open extermination of the Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh, pursued by Azerbaijan, and to continue actions, aimed at capturing arms and munitions from units of the former Soviet Army."

A report about the beginning of combat operations by Armenia was circulated today by REUTERS and FRANCE PRESSE with reference to INTERFAX, the ASSA-IRADA news agency of Azerbaijan and the press service of the Azerbaijani president. The news agencies quoted Ayaz Mutalibov as saying that it is "a regular aggression, staged with the support of the military command of the former USSR."

Nagorno-Karabakh Calls for World Intervention

LD2202191392 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1825 GMT 22 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 22 Feb (TASS)—"Azerbaijan has declared war on the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR]," the parliament and the Council of Ministers of Nagorno-Karabakh declare in a statement they sent today to the UN secretary general, Security Council, and General Assembly. The document notes that "the Supreme Soviet and the Council of Ministers of the NKR take no responsibility for the possible consequences and state that the measures taken by them to protect the peaceful population will be fully justified from all points of view."

"We demand that the world community immediately interfere in what is happening and forces the Azerbaijan leadership to end the escalation of aggression against the NKR, thereby averting a slide toward global conflict," the statement says. The document is signed by Supreme Soviet Chairman Artur Mkrtchyan and Council of Ministers Chairman Oleg Yesayan.

Wants UN Peacekeeping Forces

LD2102122492 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1100 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Moscow, 21 Feb (TASS)—The Nagorno-Karabakh authorities today appealed to the UN Secretary General and the heads of the permanent members of the Security Council to "examine the matter of the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh at the next session of the UN Security Council, to introduce UN peacekeeping forces into the region as a matter of urgency, and to declare Nagorno-Karabakh as a disaster zone."

Gegam Bagdasaryan, Nagorno-Karabakh parliament press secretary, told the ITAR-TASS correspondent by telephone that "the appeal from the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Supreme Soviet Presidium also contains a request for the interests of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic to be taken into account when examining the issue of accepting Azerbaijan into the UN."

"Actions classed as crimes against humanity by international legal norms must be condemned by the entire world community," says the document.

Nonetheless, according to information from the Nagorno-Karabakh Directorate of Internal Affairs, the Azerbaijani side continues to use weapons of mass destruction against the civilian population of Stepanakert—from the "Grad" installation, which fired its latest round on Thursday [20 February] evening. Shelling of the town by missiles and artillery then began. There is extensive destruction to the administrative center of Nagorno-Karabakh. There are casualties.

Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh Ready for Talks

OW2102125092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1030 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Armenian leadership in Nagorno-Karabakh is said to be ready for talks with Baku. According to well informed sources in Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh's leader Arthur Nkrtchian announced this readiness in a telephone conversation with one of Azeri President Ayaz Mutalibov's advisers on February 20.

According to the Agdam-based headquarters of the National Army of Azerbaijan, the Armenians are discussing the release of 90 residents of the village of Karadagly of the Askeran (Ter-Tersk) district of Nagorno-Karabakh who, the Azeris say, were captured during an Armenian armed attack on the village a few days ago. There are plans to exchange the bodies of the dead.

The HQ spokesman said that the situation in all the areas of armed confrontation in Nagorno-Karabakh was relatively calm on Thursday [20 February].

Armenians Protest Azerbaijani 'Genocide'

OW2302082592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1350 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chervona Kalyna, the Ukrainian cultural society in Armenia, has called on President Kravchuk of Ukraine and the republic's Supreme Council Chairman Ivan Pliush to recognize the independence of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic and to demand an end to the bloodshed. The telegram sent to the Ukrainian leaders says that the Ukrainian population of Armenia is concerned about the escalation of the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh which caused deaths among civilians in Stepanakert, the capital of Nagorno-Karabakh, and destroyed a large part of the city.

"Numerous casualties among the civilian population have shown the whole world that the policy pursued by Azerbaijan is the policy of genocide", Draft Law on Belorussian Enterprises

Attacks Said Designed To Disrupt Peace Talks

OW2302142992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1325 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to Azeri sources, in defiance of the ceasefire reached in Nagorno-Karabakh on Friday [21 February], on Saturday Azerbaijani-populated villages were subjected to intensive fire. According to reports, in many localities people were killed or wounded. According to our correspondent, members of President Mutalibov's office believe that the action was launched with a view to disrupting the process of talks begun in Moscow by the Armenian and Azerbaijani foreign ministers. Baku believes that, pursued by the idea of unified armed forces, CIS generals led by Marshal Shaposhnikov want to involve CIS troops in the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh. With this aim in view they allegedly turned the CIS motorized infantry regiment stationed in Stepanakert (Khankendi) into an instrument of pressure on Azerbaijan.

Protest Lodged With Armenia

NC2402080592 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 0330 GMT 24 Feb 92

[From the "Morning Information Program" presented by Berkhanum Akhmedly]

[Excerpt] I wish to start our program with a chronological summary of the developments which took place in our border region last week. This is because each and every citizen of Azerbaijan is concerned and [words indistinct]. The word front, which we cautiously used in the past, is fully valid at present.

Armed Armenian bandits launched intensive rocket and artillery attacks on Askipara and Seidimly Towns as well as on [name indistinct] City last week. Dzhalalov, a resident of Seidimly and member of the self-defense forces who was born in 1956, was killed. Mamedov, another resident of Seidimly town who was born in 1957, is missing.

Todan Town in Geranboyskiy Rayon was subjected to an intensive artillery attack. Three self-defense forces members were killed and 12 others were wounded during the exchange of fire. Meanwhile, the situation in Shusha continued to be rather tense. The city was subjected to intensive artillery bombardment. Thirty-five houses were destroyed. As is known, a state of emergency has been declared in the region. A serious state of military discipline is being observed.

Khodzhaly is another city which was fired on. Ashagy Askipara Town was fired on from the direction of Armenia's Idzhevanskiy Rayon during the past few days. According to the reports we have received from Kubatly, armed Armenians, using the tracked vehicles belonging to the Commonwealth of Independent States 7th Army, attacked (Eli'kul Ushagy) Town from the direction of Armenia's Kafanskiy and Gorisskiy Rayons. Several people were killed or wounded. Two tracked vehicles and two artillery guns were seized from the military subunit based near the town. Meanwhile, 400 cattle belonging to the local residents were driven off. Serious clashes, meanwhile, occurred in and around Khodzhaly and Umudly on Saturday [22 September]. The defenders of Azerbaijan's territory inflicted severe blows on the enemy's major installations and military and technical equipment in Agdara Rayon. Strategic targets in the Armenian Khanabad and Nakhchivani Towns and in Askeran were destroyed.

Ferocious brigands caused significant damage in Yukhary Veyselli Town in Fizulinskiy Rayon. The town was attacked from various directions. Several people were killed or wounded. Meanwhile, the reports we have received from Kedabekskiy and Kazakhskiy Rayons yesterday said that the situation in those areas is calm at present.

The mechanized units of the Armenian National Army violated Azerbaijan's border and mounted a wide-scale attack on the residential areas in Azerbaijan's Kubatlinskiy, Lachinskiy, Zangelanskiy, Fizulinskiy, Terterskiy, and Tauzskiy Rayons on 20 February. These areas are hundreds of kilometers away from the border of the mountainous area in Nagorno-Karabakh. Many residents were killed or wounded in these rayons. All the residential areas we have mentioned have been besieged by the Armenian National Army units. Azerbaijan has not been able to rescue the peaceful residents from the strife. The Azerbaijan Ministry of Foreign Affairs has handed a protest note [to Armenia] in connection with this development.

The republic's Foreign Ministry categorically protested against this development and said: Our state is being subjected to an uninterrupted wave of aggression. In view of this, it will be compelled to use its right to defend its territorial integrity and the security of its citizens. The Republic of Armenia will be held fully responsible for the outcome of this recourse.

Regrettably, Armenia is too far removed from the concept of responsibility. Can anyone expect a raging and bloodthirsty monster to have a sense of responsibility?

It is clearly obvious to anyone who has carefully followed the incidents that the situation further worsens whenever bilateral or multilateral talks are held. The present carnage began as soon as Ter-Petrosyan set foot in Moscow. [passage omitted]

Nagorno-Karbakh Combat Operations Escalate

Stepanakert Under Attack

LD2202131892 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1104 GMT 22 Feb 92

[By ARMENPRESS-TASS correspondent Loris Gukasyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 22 Feb (TASS)—According to reports from Nagorno-Karabakh, Stepanakert was again under rocket and artillery bombardment yesterday; it continued until late at night. Two salvoes were fired from the Grad rocket launcher. Many people were killed and wounded. An attack was launched from the direction of the Terterskiy and Agdamskiy rayons on 21 February on the Armenian border villages in Mardakertskiy rayon in Nagorno-Karabakh. The attacks were repulsed by the self-defense forces along the entire 15 km long section of the border. A counterattack was carried out and details are being clarified. Subunits of the Azerbaijani national army and OMON, supported by armored vehicles, attacked in the direction of the Armenian village of Berkadzor in Askeranskiy rayon, having simultaneously attempted to seize a compressor station of the Yevlakh-Nakhichevan gas pipeline. The self-defense forces repulsed the attack and forced the attackers to retreat to Khodzhaly, where an intensified artillery barrage of a number of Armenian villages subsequently began. The self-defense forces returned fire.

Azerbaijanis Fire at CIS Unit

OW2302142192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1325 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Sunday [22 February] Shusha-based Azeri militants discharged HAIL installations at the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] motorized infantry regiment stationed in Stepanakert. According to IF's [INTERFAX] correspondent, some 80 shells fell on the cantonment. A number of servicemen and members

of their families were killed or wounded. The commander of the CIS armed forces Marshal Shaposhnikov has been informed accordingly.

Rocket Volleys Continue

LD2302092892 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0853 GMT 23 Feb 92

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 23 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—The routine shelling of Stepanakert (Khankendi) from the direction of the Azerbaijan town of Shusha began at 0800 this morning, the Nagorno-Karabakh Directorate of Internal Affairs told an ITAR-TASS correspondent by telephone. Three volleys of 35 missiles each were fired from a Grad rocket launcher [ustanovka grad]. Fires broke out in the town and a there was a great deal of destruction. It has not yet been possible to determine the exact number of killed and injured due to the continuing shelling. Many of the casualties are buried in rubble or in burning houses.

According to some reports, the Azerbaijani side already has five Grad rocket launchers seized from units of the former Soviet army.

Armenia Attacks Rayons

NC2202191292 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1800 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] Our correspondent Eyvaz Yusupov has reported from Agdam that Gusayn Asadov, head of the Kubatlinskiy Rayon executive authority, has disclosed that Armenians have attacked Kubatly from the direction of Armenia's Gorisskiy Rayon. The self-defense forces and additional units in the city are retaliating against the armed Armenian groups. The attacking Armenians are being forced to retreat.

According to a report we received this morning, the defenders of Shusha are suppressing the fire from the Armenian attackers. The report we received also stressed the importance of defending the Shusha-Lachin highway.

A report from Lachin said that [name indistinct] in Khodzhavend Rayon has been fired on from Armenian residential areas. No casualties or damage have been reported.

Our correspondent has quoted Militia Colonel Sabir Dzhangirov as saying that the Armenians have launched a wide-ranging attack on Yukhary Veysalli in Fizuli Rayon. Tracked vehicles are being used in the attack. Many houses have been set on fire in the town. Additional measures are being taken to ward off the bandits' attack and force the attackers to retreat.

Tank Attacks on Cities

OW2302080292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1350 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Excerpt] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan reports that during the night of February 21 and morning of February 22 shooting continued in populated areas of Nagorno-Karabakh and border regions with Armenia. The cities of Khodzhali, Shusha, and Naftalan in the Geranboiski region were shelled.

The Azerbaijan Foreign Ministry repeated its claim that tanks and the 366 regiment out of Stepanakert participated in the attack. Four were killed and six wounded in the shelling. According to the Azeri Foreign Ministry, the Lachinskiy and Kubatlinskiy regions of Azerbaijan on the Armenian border were fired on by the 7th Army stationed in Armenia. [passage omitted]

Armenians Forming Corridor

OW2302161392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1525 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to official Azeri sources, Armenian forces are trying to form a corridor to Nagorno-Karabakh. Fighting is taking place in Kubatly, Lachi, Zangelan and Fizuli regions of Azerbaijan. The press center of Azerbaijan's interior ministry reports that last night the fiercest fighting raged in Kubatly region. According to deputy interior minister [words indistinct], the Armenians, with support from CIS troops, are trying to form a corridor to Nagorno-Karabakh in the border region of Azerbaijan.

The towns of Khojaly, Shusha and Naftalan were subjected to massive fire from "Hail" installations. More that 100 missiles fell on Khojaly and Shusha, killing 6 people, wounding 8, and causing extensive destruction.

Baku officials have qualified the offensive launched by Armenia across its entire border with Azerbaijan as direct aggression with support from troops controlled by CIS generals.

President Mutalibov's press secretary explains that Azerbaijan annoyed CIS generals led by Shaposhnikov by its intention to have its own army.

Reporters Briefed on Armenian-CIS 'Incursion'

NC2402152792 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1405 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Kuliyev, deputy head of the presidential press office, held a briefing for journalists today. He gave detailed information on the situation that has been created in the mountainous area in Nagorno-Karabakh and the Azerbaijani rayons bordering Armenia during the past few days. He noted that the situation become

more strained in the past three days as a result of the incursion into Kubatlinskiy and Lachinskiy Rayons by Armenian military groups together with several 7th Army units based in Armenia with tracked vehicles They opened intensive fire on Azerbaijani towns in the two rayons. Several residents were killed and several others were wounded.

Armenian military units and bandit groups also ransacked several Azerbaijani towns and drove away cattle in the region.

The towns in Fizulinskiy Rayon were fired on from Armenian residential areas in Khodzhavend Rayon and Khadrutskiy Rayon on (?23) February. Armenian military units occupied and set on fire Yukhary Veyselli in Fizulinskiy Rayon. Several residents were killed and many others wounded. Some of them are missing.

Kheyrimli was fired on from the direction of [placename indistinct] Rayon in Armenia on 23 February. No one was hurt.

Shusha Rayon was subjected to a rocket and artillery attack from the direction of [placename indistinct] and Dashalty yesterday. One person was killed and four others were wounded. Twelve houses were completely destroyed and 50 others were damaged. Armenian tracked vehicles were seen assembling between Mardakert and [placename indistinct] at 1000 today. Terterskiy Rayon was fired on from that area. Divanallar in Fizulinskiy Rayon was also fired on.

Kuliyev informed journalists on measures being put into effect to defend the republic's territorial integrity and provide people security. He also replied to many questions.

Georgia

Gamsakhurdia Returns, Seeks Caucasus Union

LD2202221892 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Report by Vladislav Flyarkovskiy from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Chechen leader Dzhakhar Dudayev and deposed Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia have issued a joint statement calling on all the governments and peoples of the region to start forming a union of Caucasus states. Gamsakhurdia is believed to have flown back to Georgia last night aboard a helicopter, allegedly to meet with leaders of nationalist movements in the Caucasus.

Supporters Blamed for 'Terror Acts'

OW2402131692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1052 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] One more railroad bridge was blown up in Abkhazia—this time in the Ochamchira district—on February 23. The terrorists managed to escape.

Two other bridges exploded in Abkhazia last week; the latest near Sukhumi on Thursday [20 February] night, when six freight cars dropped into the river.

The terror acts are believed to have been carried out by supporters of the deposed Georgian president Zviad Gamsakhurdia.

Rallies Support Restoration

LD2402111192 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 0900 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] A rally has been held in Sukhumi demanding the restoration to power of Georgian president Zviad Gamsakhurdia.

Similar rallies took place in other cities in the republic. The opposition, the interim Georgian government, is reported to be concerned about public indignation at the president's possible return, bringing armed units with him into Tbilisi.

Schools Closed

AU2102154492 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1400 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] The sit-in by students, pupils, and teachers in support of the ex-president is continuing in Sukhumi. As a result, studies in Georgian schools have been halted now for several days. Studies are continuing in the Russian and Abkhazian schools.

Armed Conflict Continues in South Ossetia

LD2302114792 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0902 GMT 23 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz, 23 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—Local armed conflicts continue in most critical areas in South Ossetia. According to the Internal Affairs Ministry of the South Ossetian Republic, residential areas in Tskhinval and internal troop checkpoints were fired on again last night from the direction of the Georgian villages of Nikozi, Tamarasheni, and Prisi. There was also automatic weapons fire and sniper fire from the outskirts of neighboring Goriyskiy Rayon.

Self-defense detachments defending approaches to the administrative center fired in reply to suppress the attackers' firing points. No information has been received about casualties on the Ossetian side.

According to the intelligence available to the South Ossetian Republic's self-defense committee, there are several militant detachments with arms and equipment in nearby Georgian villages in Tskhinvalskiy, Znaurskiy, and Goriyskiy rayons. They are trying to destabilize the

situation and to prevent the scheduled talks between the Ossetian side and plenipotentiary representatives of the Georgian provisional government on stopping the armed conflict in South Ossetia, lifting the economic and transport blockade around Tskhinval, and providing guarantees to 100,000 refugees for their return to their homes.

The socioeconomic situation in South Ossetia has reached a critical point. There has not been any transportation link to the republic for more than two weeks. Some roads are blocked by the Georgian side, while other main roads have been blocked by snow or avalanches. Electricity, gas, and water are not being supplied to Tskhinval. Due to shortages of flour and electricity, the local bakery is not functioning. Limited quantities of foodstuffs and medicines are being brought in by helicopter.

Residents of besieged Tskhinval and military units deployed in the town met today on Armed Forces Day. Congratulating the soldiers on the holiday, Oleg Teziyev, commander of the armed forces of the South Ossetian Republic, noted that the Georgian side's demand that military units be withdrawn from South Ossetia could aggravate the situation in the region and give rise to a new wave of armed escalation by militants. Telegrams addressed to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Aviation Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the Commonwealth of Independent States united armed forces, and the command of the Internal Troops of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs have requested that troops not be withdrawn from South Ossetia until the situation is completely stabilized.

Meanwhile, the great congress of Terek Cossacks, in which delegations from Checheno-Ingushetia, Kabardino-Balkaria, North Ossetia, and Stavropol Kray took part, ended in Vladikavkaz today. Cossack representatives stated their support for the people in South Ossetia who, in a referendum, expressed their wish to be part of Russia.

Supplies Limited

LD2402101692 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0857 GMT 24 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz, 24 Feb (TASS)—There have been more disturbances in South Ossetia. Last night, more shelling of housing areas and checkpoints of internal troops were carried out from the Georgian villages of Nikozi, Tamarasheni, and Prisi. Local outbursts of armed confrontation were also registerd on the border with the neighboring Goriyskiy Rayon. Food, medicine, and fuel reserves have run out in Tskhinval. The bakery is not in business due to a flour shortage. According to the press center of the information committee, South Ossetia has had no reliable transport communications with the outside world for over two weeks now.

Abkhaz Talks Not Held; Situation 'Tense'

LD2202215392 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1530 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Telephone report from Abkhazia by Sukhumi correspondent Tengiz Bachkoriya]

[Text] It had been planned that representatives of the Abkhaz Supreme Soviet would fly to Tbilisi today for a meeting with the leaders of the provisional government of the Republic of Georgia in order to discuss settling Georgian-Abkhaz relations and stabilizing the situation in Abkhazia. Some journalists believed that Abkhaz Supreme Soviet Chairman Vladislav Ardzinba would also travel to Tbilisi for a meeting with Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua. It emerged today that this visit and this meeting have not taken place. The press service of the Abkhaz Supreme Soviet told us it is possible that a meeting will take place in the near future between representatives of the Abkhaz Supreme Soviet and the provisional goverment of the Republic of Georgia. The time and place of this meeting will be agreed later.

As regards the situation in Abkhazia in general, it remains quite tense. Teachers at Georgian educational establishments are on strike and there are no classes in certain Armenian schools. Enterprises and establishments are not working, or rather those enterprises and establishments in which the majority of the staff are supporters of Zviad Gamsakhurdia. In Sukhumi today, on Constitution Square, there was a rally for the 47th day running in support of Zviad Gamsakhurdia, in which part of the Georgian population took part. The Abkhaz and Russian speaking population are not taking part in these events.

It is possible that there will be a session of the Abkhaz Supreme Soviet next week, which will in all probability discuss the question of introducing a special regime for citizens' conduct. This was reported today by Abkhaz Supreme Soviet Chairman Vladislav Ardzinba in an address to a meeting devoted to Armed Forces Day.

Military Council Leader Grants Interview

MK2202080292 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Feb 92 p 3

[Interview with Dzhaba Ioseliani, "one of the leaders of the Georgian Military Council," by Nadar Broladze; place and date not given: "A Parliamentary Republic Is the Most Acceptable Form of Government for Georgia"]

[Text] The 65-year old Professor Dzhaba Ioseliani of the Georgian Theater Institute set up the organization "Mkhedrioni" ("Knights") four years ago as a rescue body that became a paramilitary formation. In January 1990 he was arrested on Gamsakhurdia's orders as one of the leaders of the armed opposition and spent almost a year in jail awaiting trial. He was released by the National Guard shortly after the assault on Government House began.

[Broladze] What was the purpose of setting up "Mkhedrioni"?

[Ioseliani] An intermediary became necessary during the revival of national movements whose potential would be backed up by a mobile paramilitary foundation. "Mkhedrioni" arbitrated between various parties and political movements, and other functions emerged, for instance the defense of Georgian territorial integrity and the supervision of compliance with human rights and the rights of national minorities. "Mkhedrioni" took part as a stabilizing force in the events in Abkhazia of summer 1989, helped during the terrible earthquake in Armenia, and was in Iran during the earthquake there, winning the Iranian Government's gratitude.

[Broladze] In your opinion, how long will it take to totally normalize the situation in Georgia?

[Ioseliani] I think that two or three months will be enough.

[Broladze] How do you see Zviad Gamsakhurdia's future?

[Ioseliani] If he falls into our hands, we will bring him to trial in an international court. It is essential for opinion in the republic, particularly the doubters, and the whole world to see what he is like. He must be completely exposed. We are now racking our brains as to where he could be. I would not be surprised if he were in the Kremlin. I found a pass in his name for a Kremlin visit.

[Broladze] You returned recently from Western Georgia.

[Ioseliani] It was war—short-lived, but war. Regrettably, it did not prove possible to bring into line a number of areas of western Georgia, where some of the disoriented population have continued to back the former ruler, without shooting, armed clashes, and bloodshed. Did I take a risk in going there? Who does not expose himself to danger in a war? We did not just fight, but also established order.

[Broladze] In your view, what form of state rule is most acceptable for Georgia?

[Ioseliani] I am convinced that it can only be a question of a parliamentary republic. The leaders of the former opposition also said that before. A parliamentary republic is the optimum form of government. There must be a parliament with intelligent politicians with a sincere interest in complying with all democratic norms.

[Broladze] What is your opinion about the prospects of Eduard Shevardnadze's returning to the Georgian political leadership?

[Ioseliani] Shevardnadze will be invited to Tbilisi within the next few days to study the situation on the spot and gain a better understanding of what is going on here. He is proving his loyalty to the aims of reviving a democratic, economically strong Georgia. No sensible person would deny the former foreign minister's high international prestige.

[Broladze] What is your opinion of the Political Consultative Council's activity?

[Ioseliani] It has plenty of problems since the parties and organizations within it often disagree—which is natural, especially in the new conditions of democratic rule where there is no need to fear persecution, victimization, and name calling. I am sure that there will be no major disagreements on the main point—how to best develop Georgia. I would view the current debates as a rehearsal for a future parliament.

[Broladze] Are you ready to personally help ensure that the coming parliamentary elections comply with all the requisite norms?

[Ioseliani] Of course. It is my dream, which I hope is finally destined to be realized.

Official Comments on Black Sea Accord

AU2102085692 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 14 Feb 92 p 2

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Tedo Japaridze by unidentified SAKINFORM correspondent; place and date not given; "This Makes Georgia a Full-Fledged Member of an International Association"]

[Text]

A Declaration Has Been Signed in Istanbul on Cooperation in the Black Sea

On the Path Toward Integration into European Structures

Political observers have called the declaration on economic cooperation in the Black Sea a step forward on the path toward the creation of a common market made up of countries in the Black Sea region. It was recently signed in Istanbul by the foreign ministers of Azerbaijan, Moldova, Russia, Romania, and Turkey and the deputy foreign ministers of Armenia, Bulgaria, Georgia, and Ukraine. The declaration lays the basis for an official agreement that will be signed this spring by the heads of interested states.

"The meeting in Istanbul has great importance for Georgia both from the economic and the political point of view," said Tedo Japaridze, leader of the Georgian delegation and the republic's deputy foreign minister. "This is the first time that Georgia has signed a document of international importance as a sovereign state. All the participants in this cooperation have equal rights and obligations, notwithstanding their economic strength.

"It is emphasized in the document that it is based on the principles of the Helsinki agreements, the Paris Charter, and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. **This makes Georgia a full-fledged member of an international association and hastens its integration into European structures.** What is also important is the de facto international recognition of the republic's present government. In addition to other states, the representatives of five countries belonging to the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS] have signed the declaration. Georgia's membership or nonmembership in this Commonwealth will be decided by the republic's parliament or by a national referendum. However, the very fact that these countries and Georgia are participating in one project, from the point of view of international law, can become the model for Georgia's cooperation with the CIS countries in the economic, financial, cultural, scientific, ecological, and other spheres.

"The document adopted in Istanbul is of a declarative nature. It is democratic in essence and open to any country. A decision was adopted on the participation of Greece and Yugoslavia or its legal successors to participate in the project as observers. This extends the orbit of Black Sea cooperation to the Mediterranean Sea. If we take into account the fact that Greece is a member of the EC, its participation in the project could become a bridge for Georgia's entry into the EC.

"Georgia displayed political initiative by proposing that an international conference be held in Tbilisi under the aegis of the United Nations on the problems of creating a security system and on confidence-building measures in the Black Sea region. This will be in accord with the aspirations of the Helsinki process and the creation of corresponding institutions at regional level within its domain. The Georgian delegation's proposal was assessed positively behind the scenes of the conference. Our initiative was expanded upon by Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel in his speech."

[SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA] What exactly is envisaged in the development of economic, commercial, and financial cooperation among the Black Sea countries?

[Japaridze] The prospects are attractive. Cooperation is envisaged in the spheres of transport, communications, power engineering, mining, agriculture, ecology—the protection and preservation of the Black Sea environment—nature conservation, and so forth. It is planned to create free economic zones, introduce the free movement of persons, goods, services, and capital, and open a Black Sea bank for payments and investments. All this will facilitate the appearance of mid-level entrepreneurs in Georgia who form the basis of any democratic society. In the transfer to new economic mechanisms, their activities in Georgia are simply essential.

The Georgian delegation conducted bilateral talks with all the leaders of the delegations participating in the conference. All of them expressed the desire to begin the process of establishing diplomatic relations with Georgia.

[SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA] Did the Russian delegation express such a desire? This country has not recognized our state yet.

[Japaridze] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said that his government is ready to establish diplomatic relations with Georgia but only after the conflict in Shida Kartli [area of Georgia into which South Ossetia has been reincorporated under its historical name of Samachablo by the Georgian Government] has been resolved. At the same time, he pointed out that Russia would categorically oppose any changes in the existing frontiers of the republics of the former USSR.

Agreement was also reached on holding a meeting in the near future between Russian and Georgian Foreign Ministry leaders at which a wide range of questions of interest to both countries would be discussed.

The Georgian delegation was invited to Ankara where meetings were held in the Treasury and Foreign Trade Ministries and also in the UNESCO commission on Turkish affairs. A wide circle of specific problems were discussed that are important for the future development of favorable relations between Turkey and Georgia.

Armed Units To Combine Under Joint Command

LD2202221692 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1932 GMT 22 Feb 92

[From the "Politics" Section]

[Text] Tbilisi—On February 21 a session of Georgian Military Council resolved to put all armed formations of the republic under joint command. The conference was participated by the leaders of Georgian military formations, and they said that it would allow to manage crime control activities. Tengiz Kitovani, one of the leaders of the Military Council of Georgia, told PF [POSTFACTUM] that joining all military formations in the republic into one entity is what the situation forces us to do. According to him, under the erstwhile Georgian Government, a lot of militant groups appeared and they got armed both legally and illegally. Now they can become trumps in the hands of politicians or parties, and that might plunge Georgia into a civil war and reduce to nothing the starting trend towards stabilization. Sources close to the military circles believe that the decision on the integration of the republican military formations was a compromise in the rising disagreement within the military council. Dzhaba Ioseliani, one of the council's leaders, and the armed team Mkhedrioni he heads were not involved after the situation became completely stabilized. The military council was expanded at the session. Besides Tengiz Kitovani, Dzhaba Ioseliani, and Roman Gventsadze, it includes at present republican State Security Minister Anzor Maisuradze, General Procurator Vakhtang Razmadze, National Guard Commander Georgiy Karkarashviliy, and Defense Minister Levan Sharashenidze.

Latvia

Demonstrators Demand CIS Troop Withdrawal

LD2202184392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] A demonstration took place in the Latvian capital today against the presence of CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] troops on the territory of the republic. ITAR-TASS reports that several thousand people gathered on the square in front of the Domus Cathedral and demanded the immediate withdrawal of what they described as the occupation troops. They also called for the closure of the Russian-Latvian border. The protestors then headed toward the headquarters of the Northwestern Group of Forces, where the demonstration continued.

Defense Ministry Prepares Defense Doctrine

OW1902223892 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1941 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Latvian Defence Ministry has evolved a defence doctrine for the country in accordance with which the Latvian defence forces are to comprise border troops, motorised infantry, an air force with paratroops, a navy, anti-aircraft forces and units directly subordinated to the general staff of the defence forces. The numerical strength of the Latvian armed forces is expected to reach some 6,000 by the end of this year and about 9,000 by the end of next year.

Further on Defense Duties

LD2302171492 Riga Radio Riga International in English 1830 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] The Defense Ministry of the Republic of Latvia has worked out a blueprint for the country's defense concept which will be considered by the parliamentary commission for interior and defense and the Popular Front board. This week the report was submitted to the Supreme Council. This is according to senior Defense Ministry officials.

The draft concept states that the Latvian defense forces will consist of border guards, air and air defense forces, navy, mobile infantry, and several smaller units and subunits directly subordinated to the defense force headquarters.

According to the blueprint Latvian defense forces will consist of 6,000 servicemen by the end of 1992 while by the end of 1993 they are expected to grow to 9,000 strong.

The duties of the security service of the Republic of Latvia are to fight terrorism and organized crime, to guard the Supreme Council and related buildings, to ensure personal safety of parliamentary deputies, and to carry out other special tasks, according to chief of the Latvian security service, Police Colonel (Juris Veskina). The security service was created on the basis of the Supreme Council guard service this January. Currently the security service comprises a Guards battalion, a special tasks battalion, an information department, and other smaller departments, according to this (?announcement). The staff of the service is expected to consist of 1,030 employees.

Parliamentary Group Criticizes Defense Protocol

OW2102143992 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1314 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Latvian parliamentary commission on foreign affairs has sharply criticized a protocol signed on January 30, 1992, by Latvian Defense Minister Talavs Jundzis and Commander of the former Soviet Union's border troops in the Baltics Valentin Gaponenko. According to the protocol, the Latvian Defense Ministry pledges to finance the control of the border currently guarded by servicemen of both Latvia and the former Soviet Union. A member of the commission Janis Freimanis told BF's [BALTFAX] correspondent that the protocol is a gross violation of Latvia's sovereignty and contains "humiliating wording". However, he noted, this temporary document can be anulled any time".

Navy Comprises 1,500 Personnel, One Ship

OW2102233492 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1818 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In the words of Latvian Defense Minister Talavs Jundzis, "1500 people have set up the Latvian Navy". At a meeting of the parliamentary commission on defense February 20 he said that the Navy had received one ship which needs a repair.

However, he said, the formation of the Navy is going on much better than that of the air defense or airborne forces requiring more financial support.

Defense Ministry Staff Take Oath of Allegiance

LD2402094692 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1830 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Excerpt] At the Latvian War Museum the oath of allegiance to the Republic of Latvia was taken today by leaders of the Ministry of Defense; Dainis Turlajs, commander of the defense forces; (?Valdis Matiss), head of the National Defense Academy; (?Gaidis Zebe), administration head of the naval forces; and others. It must be said that only Dainis Turlajs was [word indistinct] today. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Comments on Visit to Kiev

LD1602111292 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1000 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Yesterday a Latvian Foreign Ministry delegation visited Kiev. At a meeting with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko, two protocols were signed: one on the establishment of diplomatic relations and one on cooperation between the two states' foreign ministries.

In the afternoon, Latvian Foreign Minister Janis Jurkans and those accompanying him met with Ukraine Supreme Soviet Chairman Ivan Plyushch. An exchange of views took place regarding various matters of interest to both sides. In the afternoon, just before his flight from Kiev, Foreign Minister Janis Jurkans gave a news conference for Latvian journalists who accompanied him on the trip. We now present a small part from this news conference.

[Begin recording] [Jurkans] A diplomatic protocol has been signed on establishing diplomatic relations. I believe that this is only the first step in forming, solidifying, our relations because it is no secret to any Latvian that Latvia's fate is to a large extent dependent on the processes going on in Kiev, on the democratization process in Ukraine, and on Ukraine's relations with Russia. In any case I believe that what has been done today and what we are seriously offering to Ukraine—grounds to open their embassy in the nearest future and we are to do likewise here in Kiev—will be one of the later, let us say, diplomatic centers in this region. [passage omitted]

Embassy in Tallinn Offically Opens 21 Feb

LD2402104992 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1830 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] In Tallinn on 21 February, the Lativan Embassy in Estonia was officially opened. It has been set up in the same building which was occupied by the Latvian Embassy in the 1930s. Taking part in the official ceremony were Latvian Economic Reform Minister Arnis Kalnins and Estonian Prime Minister Tiit Vahi.

Kuwaiti Minister Meets Government Officials

OW2102233692 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1818 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A Kuwaiti delegation led by Finance Minister Nasir al-Ridan was in Latvia February 21. His meetings with deputy head of the Latvian parliament Andreis Krastins, Finance Minister Elmars Silins and other members of the Latvian Government focused among other issues on Kuwaiti investments. It was noted that Kuwait's investments will be used for the development of power engineering, agriculture and industry.

The director of the Kuwait Economic Development Fund says Kuwait will make investments in Latvian economy as soon as Latvia presents its programs of using the money. The two sides also discussed creation of joint ventures and the possibility of supplying Kuwaiti oil to Latvia.

After visiting Riga the delegation will go to Vilnius.

Ministry Official Says Pro-Communists Uniting

OW2002214592 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1848 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Auseklis Plavins, chief of the Latvian Defence Ministry's Department of Information and Foreign Relations told BF [BALTFAX] that the pro-communist groupings had been getting united in recent months and that local party organizations had been hastily restored at industrial enterprises.

Auseklis Plavins also said that former KGB officers were employed without any restrictions by the Latvian Interior Ministry bodies and by private investigation agencies.

Lithuania

'Strong Opposition' to Border Service Transfer

LD2202235192 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2200 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] Today, on the second day of the transfer to the jurisdiction of the Lithuanian Border Protection Service of the most important border control posts, strong opposition was encountered in Klaipeda.

Yesterday former Soviet border guards, while protesting somewhat, were dismissed from the border control post in Lazdijai. However today, they even fired shots into the air as they refused to vacate the control post at the Mukhran International Sea Ferry Terminal in Klaipeda port. The Soviet soldiers fired shots in the air as Lithuanian border protection servicemen, who were armed as well, approached the post. [Words indistinct] Soviet border guards refused to withdraw from the border control post, which had been set up on the premises belonging to the Lithuanian Sea [word indistinct]. The military stand watch, but do not reside there.

According to the information provided to Vilnius radio by Colonel Norbertas Vidrinskas, chief of the [words indistinct] of the Ministry of Defense and deputy defense minister, the situation at the post remains unclear. The Soviet border guards cut communication lines after the Lithuanian border protection servicemen's entered the post in spite of the shooting. It appears that the Lithuanian border servicemen are remaining inside the building.

According to Deputy Minister Norbertas Vidrinskas, Lithuanian officials are in fact controlling the situation

at the ferry terminal. In the course of the day, they received and serviced two sea ferries that arrived from Mukhran. Stanislovas Stancikas, chief of the Border Protection Service, is charged with assuming control of the post at the ferry terminal.

Until this evening no information had been received in Vilnius concerning the situation at the other border point and former Soviet control post, located not far from the port gate.

In order to resolve the conflict, Lithuanian Defense Ministry chiefs are attempting to reach General (Kostenka), chief of staff of the border guards of the Army deployed in the Baltic countries.

The Lithuanian Border Protection Service began to take the most important border areas under its own control last month, after Defense Minister Audrius Butkevicius informed the appropriate military leaders in Moscow that from 22 January such areas would be taken over. To date, no reply has been received from Moscow.

Talks With Russia Focus on Oil, Food Shipments

Barter Deal Discussed

OW2002145892 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1340 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Today is the second day of talks on shipments for 1992 between representatives of the Russian and Lithuanian Economy Ministries. The Russian delegation is led by head of the Ministry's inter-republican relations department Boris Defterev, the Lithuanian one—by Deputy Economy Minister Vytas Navickas. They are discussing, in particular, prices and volume of oil and food shipments.

Antanas Cerniauskas, economic advisor at the Lithuanian Embassy in Moscow, told BF [BALTFAX] that Russia would like either to sell oil at world prices or to supply oil in exchange for Lithuanian meat according to world prices as well. However, Lithuania does not produce enough meat to get for it the necessary amount of oil, that is why it offers instead textile products and machine-tools. Thus, Lithuania consumes annually 10 million tons [as received] of oil and produces 400,000 tons of meat. It can sell to Russia at best 200,000 tons of meat and get in return only 2,750,000 tons of oil (according to world prices, 1 ton of oil is worth $120, 1 ton of meat - $1650) which does not meet even ½ of its demand.

Talks End 'Without Results'

LD2402120292 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2200 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Talks between the delegations of the Lithuanian and the Russian Ministries of Economies, which started in Moscow on 19 February on mutual supplies of basic goods this year, ended without results. The export and import lists of commodities and their prices had to be worked out by both sides on a governmental level. This time the sides discussed prices for crude oil, food, and metals. The next round of talks is expected to take place next week.

'Significant' Oil Product Increases Prepared

LD2002233492 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2200 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] It was announced at a regularly scheduled meeting of the extraordinary commission for stabilization of the economic situation that a draft is being prepared for a significant oil product price increase. As was stated by Economy Minister Albertas Simenas who chaired the meeting, valuations according to which residents will pay for electricity and heat will remain unchanged; in other words, the state will subsidize these costs. Gasoline and industrial use fuel prices will be greatly increased.

Preparations are under way to increase oil product prices in view of the fact that Russian crude oil suppliers are demanding that Lithuania pay for the entire month of February based on the new price, which is to be 4,600 rubles per tonne. Demands have been issued that Mazeikiai enterprise pay based on the new price for all of the crude oil it has received since 1 February. There is a three day time limit from 18 February.

Crude oil suppliers are adding a 1,600 ruble customs charge to the 3,000 rubles per tonne that Lithuania is not ready to pay, according to the economy minister. In January it was agreed between Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius and Russian Deputy Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar that 3,000 rubles per tonne would be paid.

Possibilities for regular crude oil supplies are not firm at the moment. On 17 February, following the renewal of crude oil supplies from Russia after a four day interruption, it was agreed that the oil will definitely flow for one week. During that time the Ministry of the Economy will have to negotiate so that the crude oil will further be delivered in keeping with the March account.

No confirmation was made at today's meeting of the supposition announced previously by Deputy Economy Minister Vitas Navickas that Russia might sell 6 million tonnes of crude oil to Lithuania—twice the amount promised at the beginning of the year. Current intermittent supplies are calculated in accordance with the agreed 3 million tonnes of crude oil.

It was announced during the meeting that fuel oil reserves remain unchanged at electric power stations—a 14 day supply. The reserves of gasoline for state transport will last 11 to 12 days, and diesel fuel supplies will last one month.

Vagnorius Says Bank 'Behaved Irresponsibly'

LD1802115292 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1000 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] Our listeners are concerned that the payment of wages is being delayed and students are not being paid their grants on time. Therefore, we asked for an interview with Lithuanian Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius:

[Begin Vagnorius recording] Unfortunately, I have not been paid my salary either. This also applies to the officials on our staff. I have been informed recently that an equally difficult situation also exists in many towns, including Vilnius.

I must admit that the Bank of Lithuania has behaved irresponsibly here because it did not inform us about this state of affairs, and it is directly responsible for the supply and use of banknotes. I was interested in this state of affairs and have been informed that officials of the Bank of Lithuania have left for Moscow to conduct negotiations with Moscow Bank about the supply of additional banknotes.

I would like to advise citizens what to do. First, I was a little astonished to be informed that the bank is short of banknotes and that these notes are mostly being kept at home by people. I think that at present it is not expedient for people to keep money at home. I was astonished not only because the banks did not have a sufficient supply of banknotes but also that the people of Lithuania are behaving irrationally. Today, we have no guarantee what decision might be made by the Russian Central Bank, which is responsible for the supply of money. In such a situation, and I have stated this repeatedly, it is better for people to keep their money in the savings bank. In any critical economic situation much greater guarantees will be applied to these deposits rather than to banknotes which people keep in their pockets. [end recording]

Cash Increase, Price Decrease Noted

OW1902134192 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1255 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Large amounts of goods have piled up in Lithuania shops because of the current cash shortage, Lithuanian Premier Gediminas Vagnorius said on the radio. He also noted that delays in the payment of wages and salaries were due to the same cause. In view of this, the Lithuanian premier promised his people to increase the amount of cash and to lower prices on goods.

Vagnorius Says 1992 Draft Budget 'Suicidal'

OW2002214492 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1848 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On February 20, the Lithuanian parliament discussed the draft budget for 1992, envisaging a deficit of 1.3 billion roubles. Lithuanian Premier Gediminas Vagnorius told parliament that such a budget (draft budget - BF [BALTFAX]) was suicidal for Lithuania. In May or June Lithuania will find itself in a critical situation, he said, because it had no money to pay unemployment benefits and to support industrial enterprises which will go bankrupt in the absence of raw materials and spare parts previously supplied from the former Union republics. "There is no hope for any increase in the state income. Consequently, no one should reckon on the solution of social problems," he said.

And yet, Gediminas Vagnorius urged parliament to adopt the draft budget. He said, however, that taxing laws should be amended to increase revenues.

Political Figures View Draft on Desovietization

LD1802150792

[Editorial Report] Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian at 0905 GMT on 12 February carries "Society, Politics, Economy", a five hour program interspersed with music, presented by Rimantas Pranckunas, which cites the views of Lithuanian figures on a draft law which would exclude KGB employees and assistants, high ranking staff members of the CPSU, top officials of the Komsomol organization, and members of the Lithuanian CP, Communist Party, from important state posts for a period of five years.

Pranckunas introduces the program as follows:

"It seems that the time has come for the Supreme Council to assess the Soviet period and outline the consequences of that period. In the view of legislators, a draft law entitled 'Some Restrictions on Taking Up Posts in the State Service,' which received a rather controversial response both in society and the Supreme Council itself, would serve this purpose.

"I think that most of you were listening to the live relay from the Supreme Council last Wednesday, 5 February, when a discussion was held on this draft law. So I would like to remind you of just a few points made in the draft law: the draft proposes that essentially people from three categories must not be appointed to important state leadership posts for five years: KGB employees and assistants, high ranking staff members of the CPSU, top officials of the Komsomol organization, and members of the Lithuanian CP.

"Since nobody can be subject to any restrictions except as stipulated by the law, the draft provides a rather detailed description of what kind of persons this law will affect."

Pranckunas goes on to introduce a number of figures who are asked to give their views on the draft law.

The first person to speak is Vytautas Kubilius, chairman of the Lithuanian Citizens Charter, who says: "This law

first of all should not be interpreted by certain professions as banning them from working in certain professions. This point should be rejected on principle. It should not be a matter of passing sentence on people's opinions. There should not be any suggestion of persecution because of opinions."

He goes on: "This law should be worded so as to give a critical assessment of the activities of the Communist Party as a state institution, because the party carried out, organized, and gave ideological grounds for all the repressions which the Lithuanian nation had lived through."

Kubilius further says: "The law on desovietization should on no account be directed only at KGB employees, assistants, or informers, so that the KGB could be interpreted as the only evil in the socialist empire. In fact the KGB system was controlled by the Communist Party and had never acted against its will. Therefore, those who were in charge of that instrument must be held responsible for the activities of the KGB."

He concludes: "This law should be seen as a declaration of justice and reconciliation, and not as an instrument for revenge, punishment, and deepening the discord in society."

Next to speak is Aleksandras Bendinskas, member of the Consultative Council of the Forum of the Future of Lithuania. He begins by saying that everything must be carried out in accordance with the Human Rights Declaration and continues: "Nobody doubts that there are people who committed crimes against Lithuania during those 50 years. However,there must not be collective responsibility. If a person committed a crime he must be assessed in all aspects: moral, ideological, social, and legal."

He adds: "He will have to take responsibility for those people who had been deported or tortured, and then he can be told that he cannot be employed in a state sector."

Bendinskas then says: "Unless we do this, unless we separate this out, we will be sowing discord among ourselves. This must be approached with great care. This concerns people, it concerns their future, it concerns families and it even concerns the whole of Lithuania."

The announcer then introduces Viktoras Petkus, Chairman of the Union of Lithuanian Independence. Petkus says: "I think that to believe that everything will change in our country if some 100,000 people are banned from our political and state life is absolutely false."

He adds: "And then we are Christians too. We must think perhaps this person got into such circumstances and could not help it. Therefore we should be more forgiving and understanding. And as I said at the congress, to put the blame on an organization or a group of people at a stroke would be a great mistake."

Next to speak is Rimantas Smetona, Chairman of the Lithuanian National Union, who states: "We need this law. It should have been adopted earlier. Well, of course, not much can be done about it now. The worst thing is that hopes that this law will be adopted at all are diminishing. Or even if it is adopted then it will be such that it will, perhaps, useless altogether."

He continues: "Persons who were KGB employees, agents, and assistants, leaders of the CPSU in Lithuania, and functionaries must not occupy leading posts in the structure of the state government and state control. They must not occupy posts on which the destiny of the state depends."

Smetona adds: "The law does not apply to the former party rank-and-file members. Therefore, there is no need to speak about some collective responsibility. The law is concerned only with a small part of specific posts and specific persons. Therefore collective responsibility is nothing but demagoguery and incitement."

He further says: "And there is no need for any court examination to implement this law. The courts of law will be needed later if the law on the responsibility for crimes committed against the Lithuanian nation is adopted."

Smetona concludes: "This draft law only protects our state against the people who, while being members of the Communist Party led the destruction, assimmilation, and melting into a single Soviet people of the Lithuanian nation."

Next, the announcer asks Algirdas Abramaitis, member of the Council of the Lithuanian Social Democratic Party: "Could you tell us please, if the opinion voiced during the debate on the draft desovietisation law by the deputies who represent your party is the stance of the party or is it their personal opinion?"

Abramatis replies: "I can tell you that this issue had not been discussed formally either by the Council or the Presidium. However, the issue how to get out of this Soviet quagmire was discussed. Our common stance is that the legal responsiblity should be separated from the moral one, and this was clearly voiced at all levels of the Council. Therefore we could say that the opinion voiced by our four deputies reflected the opinion of the Social Democratic Party."

The announcer then asks: "What is your position on the personal and the collective, mass responsibility?"

Abramaitis answers: "There cannot be juridical collective responsibility, for one thing."

Then the announcer asks: "And what is your opinion on the persons named in the draft who would not be able to occupy leading posts for a certain period of time?"

Abramaitis answers: "I think that it does not make sense to ban a person from doing a job which he is capable of doing. And it is a bit strange to me that according to this list a person cannot hold a post of a director at a state

enterprise, yet he could be a good manager of a cooperative or a commodity exchange. He is obviously a good businessmen, but then why do we want to isolate him from the state economic activity?"

Next, Vytautas Sustauskas, chairman of the Kaunas branch of the Lithuanian League of Liberty, says: "First of all, all the members of the Security Service should be thrown out. I think that first secretaries, as establishment personnel, were employed by the KGB. Well, I can tell you this, if there are 10 of us sitting at this table here and there are two communists among us, I may not say what I think I should say, but if there are 10 people and no communists yet there are three 'Juozas' [KGB alias of Virgilijus Cepaitis, Chairman of the Independence Party] among them, then who are more dangerous?"

Marijonas Visakavicius, chairman of the Lithuanian Confederation of Free Trade Unions says: "I do not have the latest edition of this draft, because there has been numerous proposals and variants. I can see that it could be adopted in its current form— and God forbid that that should happen, which would suit those who are in power and they will remain in power. And there will be persecution of those who were somebody in the past. I am concerned that, if those specialists who are competent and who are able to do the job are eliminated from politics, and from public and economic activities, I do not see where we will get new specialists. Are we going to import them from abroad? This is a big problem and the adoption of this law must not be hurried."

He adds: "There must be first of all personal responsiblity imposed by the courts of law, rather than looking for who was in what post and when."

Next, Kazimieras Kryzevicius, Secretary of the Lithuanian Christian Democratic Party, says: "We support the two draft laws on the criminal activities of those two organizations the KGB and [words indistinct]."

He goes on: ""We believe that these organizations made a deliberate contribution to all the repressions which were carried out in Lithuania. Therefore, after a debate on this issue at our Directorate, the Christian Democratic Party decided to appeal to the Supreme Council to adopt these laws on desovietization without delay and these organizations were declared criminal organizations."

Julius Cerniauskas, chairman of the Kaunas branch of the Lithuanian Democratic Party, says: "The Lithuanian Democratic Party is of the opinion that the former party functionaries, I mean at all levels:the CPSU, the Lithuanian CP and the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party, cannot occupy leading posts."

The announcer then asks: "So essentially you support the draft which was debated in the parliament without reservations?"

Cerniauskas answers: "That's right, without reservations, we even think that in some cases it could be more radical."

The announcer asks: "And which cases would those be?"

Cerbniauskas concludes: "We think that all the former party functionaries or senior establishment workers at that time, without exception must not be allowed to occupy leading posts."

U.S. Newspaper Article Viewed by Lansbergis

OW2302165292 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1540 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Commenting on a "WASHINGTON POST" article about U.S. plans to defend Lithuania from Russia, Chairman of the Lithuanian parliament Vytautas Landsbergis said that Lithuania has good relations with the present leadership of the Russian Federation and cannot imagine any irrational actions on its part, including military attacks ordered, for example, by Boris Yeltsin.

In the opinion of Landsbergis, Pentagon's forecasts could become reality only in case of Boris Yeltsin's ouster and triumph of anti- democratic forces in Russia.

Landsbergis added that if the USA wants to protect freedom and democracy in Lithuania, "we cannot be angry with that". He expressed hope that the U.S. would provide in the first place economic guarantees to Lithuania.

Lansbergis Receives EC Secretary General

LD2102200992 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 2000 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Today Catherine Lalumiere, secretary general of the European Council, was received by Vytautas Landsbergis, chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania. The guest was interested in the work of the parliament, the political situation in Lithuania, and the preparation of the constitution because the basic law of the state is one of the conditions for joining the European Council. Opinions were also exchanged on other issues.

Catherine Lalumiere and those accompanying her were also received today by Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius. Deputy Prime Minister Algis Dobrovolskas and Vytenis Aleskaitis, minister of international economic relations, were also present at the reception. Issues concerning Lithuania's joining the European Council were discussed during the talks.

Mrs. Lalumiere was interested in the development of setting up a democratic society, the rights of national minorities, and issues related to the economic reform.

Catherine Lalumiere said that she is pleased to see the positive processes toward the development of democracy, and expressed the hope that Lithuania will bcome a member of her organization.

The delegation met faction leaders, representatives of the nationality minorities, and Galina Kobeckaite, director general of the nationality minorities department, at the Supreme Council.